



Darcy parties

Getting down with Colin
Section 2, page 4



**Tomorrow: 48-page colour
guide to the Olympic Games**



THE INDEPENDENT

3,043 *

FRIDAY 19 JULY 1996

WEATHER: Hot, humid and sunny

40p (inc ASP)

Blast over Atlantic leaves 228 dead and a big question: was it a bomb or an accident?

A scar in the ocean

DAVID USBORNE
East Moriches, New York

You would not imagine that the open ocean could bear a scar. But here, 12 miles out from the sandy southern coast of Long Island, New York, and 6,000 feet in the air, that is just what can be seen. Beneath me, in the exact spot where TWA 800 met its terrible end at about 8.40 pm on Wednesday night, there is a dark and ugly gash of unburned aviation fuel and oil.

A little higher and we would be at the same altitude at which the 747 jumbo jet, bound for Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris with 228 passengers and crew, erupted into a fireball and plummeted into the waves. And now, to peer down from a circling helicopter is to understand only a fraction of the horror of what happened in these skies on Wednesday evening.

At the time of the explosion it was already dark and rescue efforts were almost impossible. When the rescue mission got fully underway, there were at least 20 vessels searching. They patrolled the area constantly, in the rapidly fading hope that some survivors would still be found yesterday.

Bright orange Coast Guard helicopters skimmed the waves over a search area that expanded to a radius of 200 miles. The aircraft, by now, is either lying deep down on the sandy bottom of the sea, or, more likely, is shattered into thousands of pieces.

One section of the aircraft, of about 30 feet, has been retrieved, but hundreds of small pieces of wreckage remain, bobbing on the waves. Tray tables, seat-backs and life jackets float on the surface alongside

suitcases and small, personal, bags.

From the site of the crash, a relay of ships sailed north to the small pleasure port of East Moriches. Equipment was sent out to help with the search, including technology for locating the aircraft's black boxes.

Some of the ships moving towards land were carrying bodies. By midday yesterday about 100 bodies had been found, some intact, others in pieces.

Everything retrieved by the ships will be minutely examined for clues. Uppermost in most minds is the thought that only

Inside

Lockerbie disaster remembered: Age of jet raises questions: Who might plant a bomb: Luck and despair
pages 4, 5

some kind of bomb, detonated on board, could have precipitated so violent a crash.

At the East Moriches Coast Guard station, a command centre has been set up with a full array of state and federal officials, including agents from the FBI, adding to the belief that this was no mechanical failure, even though the aircraft was elderly. A 747-131, it was first put into service by TWA in 1971.

Officials warn that finding the cause of the crash will probably take several days.

At a brief White House press conference, President Bill Clinton said: "Let's wait until we get the facts and let's remember the families. We do not know what caused this tragedy."

The explosion was first witnessed by the crew of an aircraft of the New York Air Guard on night manoeuvres.

"There was a large flash," reported Lieutenant Colonel Charles Stiles, "then the debris began breaking up. The Air Guard plane beamed towards the scene but pulled back because debris was still falling".

On shore, the Coast Guard heard the distress call. "Mayday Mayday," and then nothing more.

Local people who had been enjoying a hazy summer evening on their shore-side verandas reported hearing a large explosion, and then seeing a falling fireball followed by a trail of dark smoke. Rescuers said aviation fuel burned on the water for several hours into the early morning.

The plane had arrived in New York from Athens. Reports said it had undergone some last-minute repairs on the ground just before lifting off for its last flight.

There was, however, one blessing for air passengers on a TWA connecting flight from Chicago: their aircraft did not make it to New York in time for them to catch the ill-fated transatlantic service.

Back at East Moriches, authorities were trying to drive away the crowds of onlookers on the shore and the many who had sailed out to the crash site, some in search of thrills, others hoping to help in the search for survivors.

Sitting in his small fishing boat early in the morning, Fred Spiers expressed puzzlement at the exodus to the ocean.

"I don't know what they are going to see, except a load of bodies out there," he said.



Evidence of the disaster: A wing of the crashed aircraft floating in the water off New York

The 5,000 men whose warped minds threaten our children

ROGER DOBSON

Mr Justice Richard Curtis called him a "fiend" and said he should be jailed for ever. Howard Hughes, paedophile and murderer of 7-year-old Sophie Hook had made "every parent's nightmare come to pass".

After Hughes left Chester court the judge said it was time to change the law to protect society from evil men. There are, by most estimates, about 5,000 men in Britain convicted of sex offences who are obsessed with having sex with young children.

Mr Justice Curtis called for greater supervision of convicted paedophiles, adding: "If such action is taken, perhaps Sophie Hook will not have died wholly in vain."

A register of sex offenders, a new law to ban them from even trying to get a job with children, and compulsory DNA tests for those convicted are among the steps already being taken by the Government.

Offenders would have to register with police when they moved address, so their whereabouts would always be known and on the national computer. However, paedophiles have a high rate of re-offending.

According to Catherine Doran, a child protection specialist in Haringey, north London, paedophiles are still operating in residential institutions, although almost 20 men, many of them care workers, have been jailed for offences against children in homes.

"There is little doubt that

career paedophiles are operating within residential provision in this country," she says.

Paedophiles, she says, come from all social classes, but their victims are usually working class and vulnerable children.

Paedophiles themselves say there are two types of abusers, the non-predatory and the predatory. The non-predatory are those who believe children can enjoy and can give consent to sex acts. One offender had 20 amusement machines in his garage to attract young people, says Dr Ray Wyre, a psychologist and expert on sex crime.

Predatory paedophiles sexually abuse. Like Hughes, they are prepared to abduct children. "They are willing to grab a child, to abuse and manipulate, to threaten, and to ignore the

hurt and the pain the child is expressing," Dr Wyre said.

Characteristics of paedophiles are that they are over 25, have no dating pattern with men or women, select children who are physically or emotionally neglected, do not marry or have a marriage of convenience, and belong to children's organisations.

They also often enjoy photographing children, as did Hughes. Some operate as loners. But others are part of an informal network, where photographs, contact magazines and addresses are exchanged.

Ms Doran urges closer monitoring than the Home Office announced. "If there is an investigation and it comes to nothing, it should still be reported to the Department of

Health, or wherever, so that there are central figures. At present, if it comes to nothing, the investigation is only known about among those who carried it out." Others want an allegations register. That might, for example, have picked up the Dunblane gunman, Thomas Hamilton, at an early stage.

An insidious trait among paedophiles is the so-called grooming of victims to become abusers themselves. The paedophile will encourage the child to abuse others, which turns the child into a perpetrator who is less likely to complain.

One problem with bringing paedophiles to justice is that their victims refuse to give evidence or the courts do not value their judgement.

Violent paedophile, page 8

QUICKLY

MoD in art row
Ministry of Defence officials were severely criticised for their careless attitude towards publicly owned works of art in a report released by the Commons Public Accounts Committee yesterday. Page 7

Labour strike action
The Labour leadership is considering the introduction of a law providing for compulsory binding arbitration for public service workers. In the face of union opposition, the party was said to be keen on a "no-strike" system which could resolve disputes without industrial action. Page 2

Briton leads Open
Paul Broadhurst led the field on the first day of the British Open at Lytham St Annes. The Englishman shot a course record-equalling 65. Page 28

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CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

Would-be astronauts hoping to venture to Mars, take note: do not pack your chess sets. "Competitive" board games will be banned from the two-year flight because they could turn the space mission into a potentially disastrous clash of egos rivaling the television series *Red Dwarf*.

Instead, long-distance space travellers will probably be given a computer, "psychologist", like Hal, the eternally calm computer in 2001: *A Space Odyssey*, to which they can pour out their frustrations about the other members of the crew. They will also be encouraged



Happy crew: The cast of the cult TV series *Red Dwarf* - not recommended as companions for a space trip to Mars

to play "co-operative" games, such as *Dungeons and Dragons*, to reduce the stress, boredom, anxiety and depression, which could lead to the biggest systems failure of all. "In an extreme

case, [the stress] could jeopardise the mission and the crew's lives," said JoAnna Wood, who has been studying the subject with a team in Houston, home of the US space agency NASA.

The ideal Mars team will probably be a six-strong mixed team, with one person having to be the "jolly, outgoing" type to lift the others through low periods, reckons Dr Wood, who yesterday led a discussion about the psychology of long space missions at an astronauts' meeting in Birmingham.

She knows close confinement for long periods can affect people: a colleague sent to study scientists in the Antarctic became so unpopular that one of them smashed the researcher's computer - which belonged to Dr Wood.

As spacecraft stay in orbit longer, their occupants' weaknesses are highlighted. "The Russians had to end two mis-

sions early because the crew had psychological problems which showed up as psychosomatic symptoms. And there was an incident on the Mir space station involving a chess match," said Dr Wood. What happened? "We don't know exactly, but they don't allow them to play chess up there anymore."

The ideal Mars astronaut would be "adventurous, able to tolerate boredom and able to work as a team," Dr Wood said. A key element could be a computer to which crew members could pour out their anger: "It would give them the opportunity to vent their frustrations without having to talk to somebody who was part of the problem."

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news

RUC admits blunder over Killyhevlin bomb

ALAN MURDOCH
Dublin

The Royal Ulster Constabulary has admitted to a catastrophic blunder in failing to monitor the movements of a jeep later used in last Saturday's bombing of the Killyhevlin Hotel in Enniskillen despite a tip-off from gardai in the Irish Republic.

The silver Suzuki Trooper jeep, stolen in Dublin on 3 July, was stopped at a garda

checkpoint at midnight on 4 July near Redhills in County Cavan. When the driver was asked to produce insurance and identification he drove off at speed.

The RUC were quickly warned to watch for the vehicle. Three days later they spotted it near Newtownbutler in Fermanagh, and after consultation with gardai it emerged it was carrying false number plates taken from a similar vehicle.

But RUC officers then left the jeep unattended, and when they returned to the scene it had disappeared.

It was later packed with more than 1,000lbs of home-made explosives by the bombers. Garda intelligence experts believe the bombers were members or supporters of Republican Sinn Féin, a splinter group which split off from the Provisional Sinn Féin and IRA in 1986. The IRA itself has denied responsibility.

In a statement, the RUC confirmed the jeep crossed the border and was left 500 metres inside Fermanagh. "Due to the dangers represented by its location, its proximity to the border and the possibility of terrorist attack, the vehicle could not be recovered before it was driven off."

The RUC is continuing to appeal for information on the jeep's movements prior to the bombing. The explosion injured 17

people, including members of a wedding party who had to be treated for shock, and destroyed much of the recently-refurbished hotel.

Liz O'Donnell, justice spokeswoman of the Irish Opposition Progressive Democrats said: "There will have to be questions asked at the most senior level. There has obviously been a lapse on their side. Clearly, from their own security point of view, if a suspect ve-

hicle is pointed out it should be followed up."

Irish justice minister Nora Owen said the matter was being raised at yesterday's Anglo-Irish Conference in Dublin, where RUC Chief Constable Hugh Amessy was attending a security committee meeting.

Mrs Owen said the Garda Síochána and the RUC had a good working relationship in exchange of information which had steadily improved.

Labour examining no-strike law

Public service workers face clampdown on action, writes
Barrie Clement

In the teeth of union opposition the Labour leadership is seriously considering introducing a law providing for compulsory binding arbitration for millions of public service workers.

As the Royal Mail and London Underground were hit by 24-hour strikes yesterday, senior Labour figures said the party was keen to introduce a "no-strike" system to resolve disputes without industrial action.

An influential source predicted that two or three years into a Labour government a potential "flashpoint" could be public sector pay, given the party's insistence on financial discipline and the wage bill freeze imposed by the present administration.

The Labour source said that the system could include a definite timetable for disputes to be resolved quickly. Among the groups of workers which could be included are firefighters, teachers, nurses and local government workers.

Most trade unionists are opposed to compulsory binding arbitration because it effectively outlaws strikes, removing what many trade unionists regard as a fundamental civil right.

Brushing aside taunts by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, refused in the Commons to condemn the postal and tube strikes. His office, however, later repeated a call by David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, for an end to industrial action on the Tube system pending binding arbitration.



Summer in the city: Heavy traffic in central London yesterday during the strike which left only five Tube trains running. Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

John Prescott, deputy Labour leader, reportedly had to be "scraped off the wall" when he heard about his colleague's assertions.

Low Adams, general secretary of the train drivers' union, issued a statement addressed to politicians of all parties, but clearly aimed at the Labour leadership: "Please keep out. Keep your wisdom to yourselves. Our dispute is with London Underground. Don't muddy the waters."

Bob Crow, assistant general secretary of the RMT transport union, said: "It is not a political dispute. Any interference by the Government for po-

litical reasons will be counter-productive and unhelpful, and that goes for intervention by an Opposition party. Arbitration is not a real substitute for negotiations."

Alan Johnson, leader of the Communication Workers' Union, doubted whether arbitration would help in the postal dispute. He said that there would be "howls of anguish" from employers rather than unions if arbitration became compulsory.

Mr Johnson, however, said his union was happy to respond to an invitation to take the dispute to the conciliation service, Acas, today.

Unrest is not revolution

Compared with the so-called Winter of Discontent in 1979, when around one-quarter of the working population were employed in industries hit by industrial action, the walkouts by the postal workers and drivers on London Underground are small beer indeed.

Working days lost through industrial action remain at an all-time low. In 1979 some 272 days were lost per 1,000 employees through strikes. Last year the figure was down to 19. The present unrest is unlikely

to change the total by much. The two most damaging disputes at Royal Mail and London Underground have important factors in common. Each involves resistance to new working practices by employees in state-owned enterprises.

The ability of the London Underground employees and postal workers to conduct "successful" action is based on old-fashioned industrial muscle. Despite legislation outlawing the closed shop, in both cases the workforce is highly unionised. A second and more important element is management's inability to dismiss their workers and replace them by recruiting from the dole queues. There is no alternative army of Tube drivers and the Royal Mail would find it difficult to employ even a small part of the 130,000 staff taking industrial action.

Barrie Clement

Left-wingers cry foul

COLIN BROWN

Allegations of ballot-rigging for next week's shadow cabinet elections were being made last night by left-wing Labour MPs, said some MPs had been offered the week off in return for their blank voting papers.

The left-wing MPs were claiming that the whips were trying to defend the position of Harriet Harman, the health spokeswoman, who is threatened with defeat because of her decision to send her son to a selective grammar school.

One MP said he was approached by a whip and told that if he was away next week, he could leave his ballot form to be handed in by a "reliable" colleague who would cast his votes for proxy.

Alan Simpson, a leader of the left-wing Campaign Group of

Labour MPs, said he had heard of MPs being told to leave ballot papers with the whips for proxies to be arranged. "If these allegations are true, it will make a mockery of the democratic process. People are bound to draw conclusions that reward for windfall loyalty," he said.

"What is happening is a disgrace," another left-wing MP said.

Although proxy voting is within the rules, it could be open to abuse. The rules on proxy voting were tightened up to stop ballot-rigging some years ago after allegations that MPs of one party were handing over to whips in exchange for favours such as better rooms and more time off. MPs are now barred from casting multiple proxy votes.

The Commons is due to rise

for the summer recess next Wednesday – the day the shadow cabinet results will be announced – and some may relish the prospect of an extra week away from the Commons. In defence of Ms Harman, it has been made clear to other front-benchers that their posts could be at risk if they break ranks and challenge sitting shadow cabinet members.

The Campaign Group has organised its own "slate" to vote for Irene Adams and Ann Clwyd, two challengers, to remove Ms Harman. They are also backing Margaret Beckett and Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader of the House. The left-wingers fear she could be at risk for defying Tony Blair and calling on MPs to vote for the 26 per cent pay increase last week.

PM calls Tories to order

COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister issued a rallying call last night for a May 1997 election as he urged a meeting of Conservative MPs to show discipline "every day" between now and then.

"It is time to stop being bystanders and commentators and time to become advocates for what we passionately believe, because we love our country and want it to succeed," he told a crowded meeting of backbenchers and ministers at Westminster. "Don't book a holiday next spring," he told them.

The Cabinet earlier agreed dates for the Queen's Speech, setting out the pre-election legislative programme, on 23 October, and the Budget, on 26 November, the milestones in the "long campaign."

But by playing it long the Government could be facing discontent from thousands of public-sector workers who will be told this winter that they can only expect pay increases if they are paid for by efficiency savings or other economies as part of the strategy to cut spending to make room for tax cuts in the Budget. Some public-sector unions were warning of trouble ahead if they have to settle for rises of 2-3 per cent while MPs enjoy rises of 26 per cent. And John Major's announcement of the pay freeze prompted angry calls of "hypocrisy" in the Commons.

However, Mr Major's end-of-term address in the 1923 Committee drew desk-hanging approval when he declared: "The Labour Party doesn't have a single policy borne out of a strong conviction – everything

is borne out of what would resonate with the electorate on a daily basis."

He said: "We must win the hearts and minds of the 14 million people who voted 'Tory last time'... and ask every day: 'Have I done something today to help win the election?' and 'Have I avoided doing anything today which would increase the risk of losing?'"

The Chancellor will reinforce the message for pay restraint in letters to the pay review bodies. The Cabinet agreed to fix a public-spending ceiling of £268bn for next year but gave the Chancellor's Cabinet EDX committee an expenditure remit to come under that figure if possible. One senior Cabinet source said there would be a full package of bills in the Queen's Speech.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

MPs admitted yesterday that Parliament "makes its procedures as impenetrable as possible to outsiders". In a first step to clarifying the work at Westminster, the all-party Commons Committee on Procedure has recommended the ending of "one small nonsense in the realm of procedure". They say that the term "standing committee" which considers Bills in detail, is "at best unhelpful and at worst positively misleading" and should be changed to "general committees".

There is a growing move among MPs to abolish jargon from the language of Parliament to make it intelligible to the layman.

Two young convicts who found £580 hidden in a chair they were working on at Deerbolt Young Offenders Institution at Barnard Castle, County Durham, were praised for their honesty after they handed the cash to an instructor. Geoffrey Smith, 20, and Jamie Roberts, 19, each received a £20 reward from the 79-year-old owner of the chair after the cash was returned to her. She believes it was hidden by her late husband.

The Scottish Prison Service lost £2m last year on property and computer deals which went wrong, according to a National Audit Office report published yesterday. Sir John Bourn, auditor general, highlighted the two cases in his audit of the prisons agency.

A £1.8m loss was made on the purchase and subsequent sale of Middleton Hall, Midlothian, which was intended for a prison service college. The property was bought in 1989 for £1.3m despite a valuer's assessment that it was worth only £700,000. No structural survey was carried out before it was bought and emergency repairs were required. The prison college project was cancelled due to a redirection of resources and Middleton Hall sold in 1993 for £580,000.

The second big loss was on a computer maintenance contract. The prisons agency paid for the three-year contract of £266,000 in advance at the beginning of 1996. Less than six weeks later the supplier went into receivership and the prisons agency does not expect to recover any of the cash.

A foetus may feel pain by the 10th week of life, according to research published by an anti-abortion parliamentary group yesterday. The report, compiled by 15 experts, called for more research into the possibility of foetal pain and criticised the study on which the Department of Health bases its position. Pro-choice groups say that the cortex does not develop fully until 26 weeks and is essential for pain sensations. But the report argues that the cortex is responsible for a "great deal less than people imagine" and that the thalamus could play a vital part in experiencing pain.

More than 50 MPs have signed an Early Day Motion put forward by the Conservative MP Elizabeth Peacock attacking partial birth abortion, in which the foetus is withdrawn from the womb by piercing the skull and sucking out the brains until the head collapses. Glenda Cooper

Soya-based baby milk containing gender-bending chemicals does not appear to pose a risk to infants, experts said yesterday. The Government issued new health advice telling parents who use soya-based formulae on medical grounds to continue to do so. Parents who opt for soya-based milk for non-medical reasons were advised to consult their GP.

Soya products contain phytoestrogens which have been linked to infertility in animals.

John Birt, Director-General of the BBC, was handed "arrogant" and "dictatorial" by MPs yesterday, as he sought to defend his plan to merge World Service news with the domestic news organisation.

MPs on the foreign affairs select committee attacked the plans and the lack of consultation before they were announced and enacted on 7 June. Under questioning, Mr Birt's deputy, Bob Phillips, admitted that he had only two days' notice of the reorganisation, but that it was the director general's right to make difficult decisions as he saw fit.

Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, and Foreign Office ministers had also been left in the dark about the changes until the last minute.

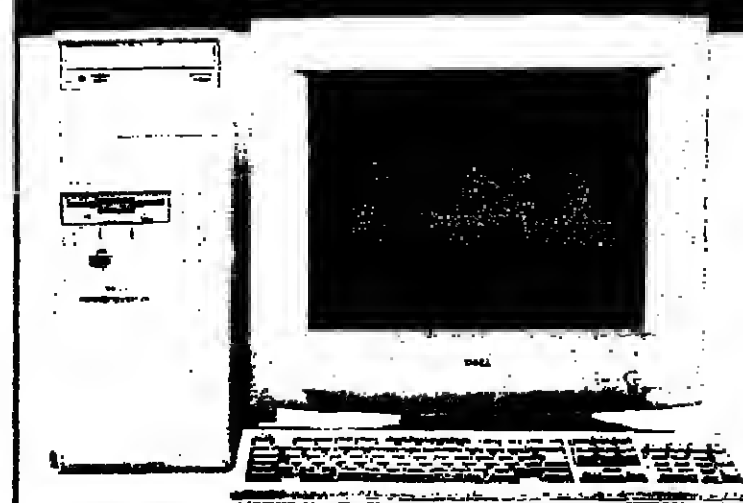
"You seem not to be acting so much like the Director-General of the BBC but as a 'tsar', accused Robert Wareing (Labour, Liverpool West Derby). Mr Birt told the committee the changes had been too radical to permit general consultation. "It is inherently ridiculous to say that I or any of the governors of the BBC would wish to do anything but good to the World Service."

Chris Green resigned as chief executive of English Heritage last night following a report concerning alleged administrative irregularities. Mr Green is a former British Rail manager.

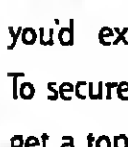
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The lost programmes of Atlanta

This weekend sees the start of the BBC's wall-to-wall Olympic coverage. But is it all too much? Michael Streeter reports

As the nation settles down in front of its television sets for 300 hours of coverage of the Olympics, the fightback against wall-to-wall sport has started.

A coalition, including Tory MPs and fans of the cult series *Murder One*, is taking on the BBC - with some early success.

Followers of *Murder One*, which is building to its dramatic climax, forced the corporation into a mini-climbdown after learning that the next two weeks of episodes were being postponed to make way for the Atlanta Games, which open today.

The BBC agreed to show two episodes of the show consecutively as soon as the Games are over, and to broadcast the final programme the next evening.

Other programmes to be hit will be *Watchdog*, *Panorama*, *Mastermind*, the hit comedy *Goodnight Sweetheart*, *Auntie's* *Blooming*, *Small Talk*, the *Good Food Show*, and *Summer Holidays*. Screenings of the first series of *The X-Files* will be reduced from two to one a week.

David Wiltshire, Conservative MP for Spelthorne, said he will be seeking assurances from Mr Blair that future gluts of televised sport are scheduled more sensitively for those with little or no interest in the subject.



The current scheduling is ridiculous," he said. "To block up just one channel could be done quite happily, but to do it to both is too much. I think there has been an overdoing of sport this summer. It is a question of striking a balance.

His comments, echoed by viewers' groups and many leading figures contacted by the *Independent*, come on the eve of 300 hours of Olympic coverage on BBC1 and BBC2 over the next two weeks, costing £30m.

The BBC counter-claims by saying that, on BBC2 in particular, there will be regular favourites, refugees from BBC1 and new shows, including *Gardeners' World*, *Top of the Pops* and *Ready, Steady, Cook*.

A spokeswoman said: "We are delighted to be the national Olympic broadcaster. It is an amazing event, and not just for sports fans."

On the *Murder One* row, she added: "We ask our viewers to be a little bit patient because we have a major commitment to the Olympic Games."

"However, they will be getting a triple treat when the three episodes are shown. It's definitely worth the wait."

Rescheduled: Popular BBC programmes to have been moved because of the Games include (from left) *Murder One*, *Panorama*, *One Foot in the Grave*, *Goodnight Sweetheart* and *The X-Files*

more sport will cause friction in some households, a view echoed by the marriage guidance organisation Relate.

Meanwhile, Sky TV added to the BBC's embarrassment over the *Murder One* row by announcing that it would be re-running the final episodes over the next few weeks.

And Channel 4 bosses have moved *Brookside* to an earlier slot to compete with the BBC's extensive evening Olympic coverage.

The Liverpool-based soap will run alongside *The Essential Olympics* at 8pm, an earlier time than usual, on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 23 July to 2 August.

As for sport, on a typical day of Olympic coverage, for example next Wednesday, BBC1 will be broadcasting the Games from 7am to 9am, from 9.05am to 12.35pm, from 1.40pm to 5.35pm, from 7pm to 9pm and from 10.20pm through to 4.25am.

On the same day, BBC2 will feature the Games from 9pm to 10.20pm.

Viewers reeling from this news should beware: the BBC has the rights to television coverage of the next three Games.

The TV viewers' marathon: time to turn on, tune in, or opt out?



Michael Parkinson

"I might be worried if the sport was replacing anything worth watching. If it was not for the sport on the TV, what would there be to watch? Dreadful shows such as *Oprah Winfrey* and repeats of crappy old game shows. "I would rather watch a runner on drugs than *Ricki Lake*."



Joan Bakewell

"I know plenty of people are interested in sport, but I shall be getting books from the library and sitting in the sun. The BBC have been pretty clumsy over *Murder One*, they built up people's expectations. I am a bit of a news junkie and shall be watching the *Nine O'Clock News*. They won't change that, it's sacred."



Max Clifford

"It does seem to me that the BBC are going a bit over the top in their coverage. "I am a sports fan, but I think a lot of people have very good reason to complain about the amount of sport on TV. But then, it's difficult to please everyone."



Tony Banks MP

"I'm the worst person to ask, because I am a big sports enthusiast. The range and variety of sport that has been on this summer is enormous. And the Olympics have so many different events that I do not really see it as a problem for people."



Terry Wogan

"I am a sports buff, but I think that with the Olympics, there is a case for saying that the events are pretty boring, until you get to the semi-finals and finals later on. The assumption is that most people around the country are interested in sport. They are not. I would reckon it to be about 60-40 against sport."



Stirling Moss

"I enjoy sport myself. But I can see why some would be upset by this, and I can understand the outcry over all this sport on television. Though in the case of the Olympics, it is only one year in four."



Austin Mitchell MP

"I think the programmers have got it reasonably well-balanced now. "The BBC have got their researchers, they know what the public want and presumably, if it became counter-productive they would stop it. As it is, they're catering for public demand."

Dean refuses to quit troubled Lincoln Cathedral



Dr. Carey: No resignation

A senior churchman at the centre of a row over the running of Lincoln Cathedral has told the Archbishop of Canterbury that he will not resign.

The Archbishop, Dr. George Carey, has said that the only solution to the controversy was for both Dean Brandon Jackson and Subdean Rex Davis to leave the cathedral. Carey

Davis has already said he would outstand down - and yesterday Dr. Jackson revealed he also intended to stay.

Neither cleric can be forced to leave because both men, who are in their early 60s, were appointed by the Crown and have the right to remain in their posts until the age of 70.

Dr. Jackson said in a statement that he would be willing to resign only if Canon Davis left as well. "As the subdean has declined to leave, [I have] advised the archbishop that [I do] not propose to leave at this time," he added.

He said that the pressure on him to stay at Lincoln was "very considerable and growing by the day". Dr. Carey said he hoped that

"both men will continue to reflect on what is best for the Church and the continuing ministry of the cathedral".

The controversy began in the late 1980s after the cathedral lost nearly £50,000 when a fundraising trip to Australia, organised by Canon Davis, went wrong.

Shortly afterward Dr. Jackson was appointed dean by the then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, with a brief to "sort out" the cathedral's affairs.

Since then the rift between Dr. Jackson and Canon Davis has deepened and cathedral staff have complained about the dean's "abrasive" management style.

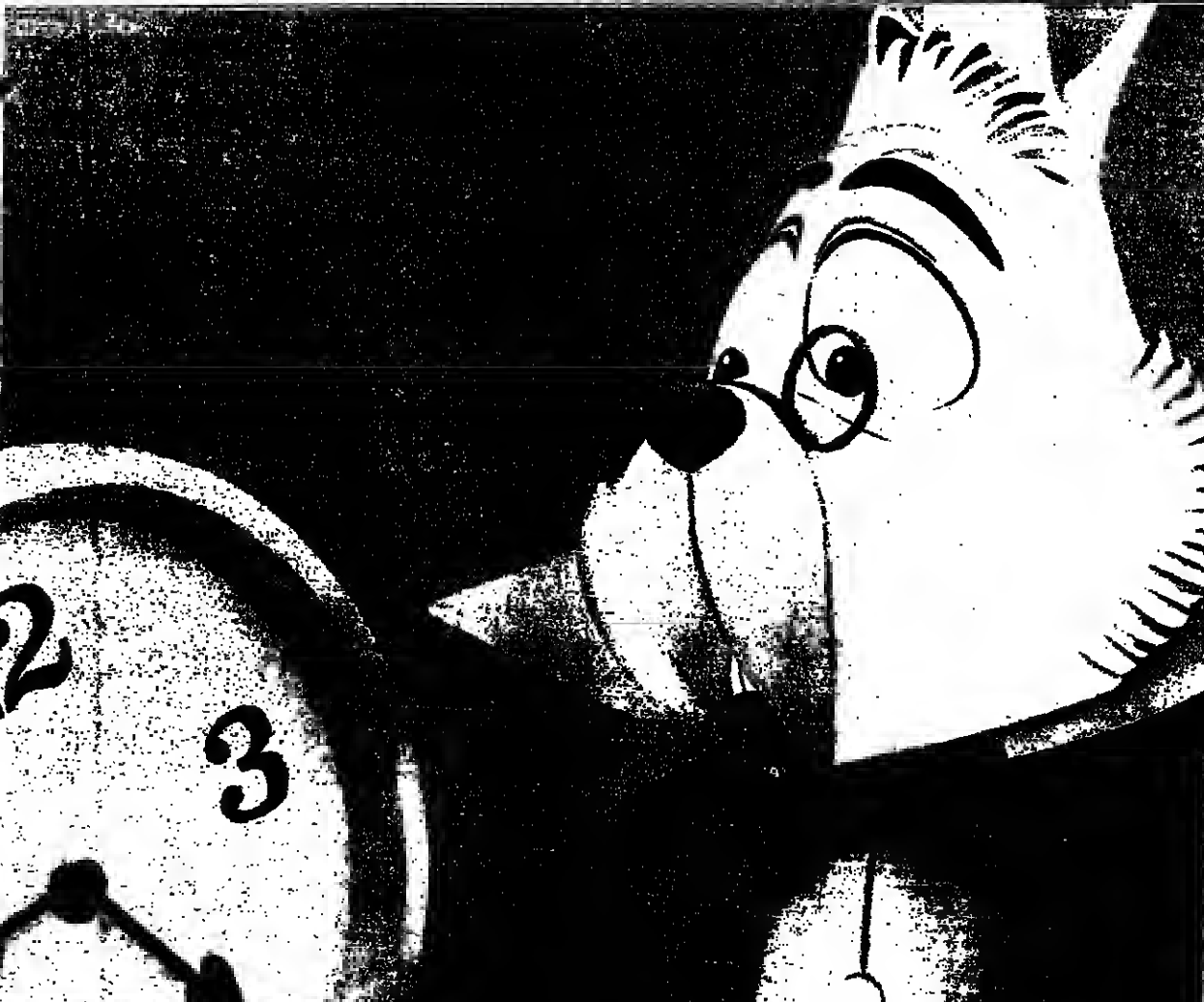
Dr. Jackson has also been cleared of allegations that he sexually harassed a woman verger.

Earlier this month, Dr. Carey said the controversy had "shamed" the Church and called for both clerics to step down.

The Archbishop called for resignations at a press conference in Lambeth Palace

after meeting both men privately. The manner in which Dr. Carey made his call upset Dr. Jackson, who said he thought the meetings had been private.

And earlier this week he criticised the archbishop for "projecting the matter into the public domain".



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THE LAST FLIGHT TWA 800

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Washington
MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris
ANDREW GUMBEL
Rome

Tragic mix of luck and despair

It was to have been the dream trip to the city that symbolises the culture and language they had studied for years. Instead, for 16 students from a small, tight-knit town in rural Pennsylvania and five adult chaperones, Wednesday evening's TWA Flight 800 from New York to Paris was a 25-minute trip to a fiery death.

Each great air disaster has its poignant stories, of supreme good fortune and the ultimate misfortune. Into the first category comes the unspecified number of Paris-bound passengers on a TWA flight from Chicago that evening, so delayed by heavy rain that they missed their connection, which itself left an hour late. In the second belong the members of the "French club" from Montoursville High School.

Every two or three years, the club makes its sentimental journey. Its members had travelled to New York by car earlier in the day – a group of excited, high-spirited teenagers aged between 14 and 18, "clever kids, happy kids, great people to know", in the words of Dan

Chandler, the school's principal. "In 26 years, I haven't seen a crew of kids like they were."

A couple of hours before dawn yesterday, a second, very different contingent left Montoursville for New York. Hardly had word come of what had happened when dozens of parents, relatives and fellow students gathered at the school buildings, disbelieving yet fearing the worst. "We managed to get a couple of buses and at 4.15 we left to take the parents to JFK, with friends and church ministers," Mr Chandler said.

Yesterday a pall of shock and grief hung over the town, a few miles down the Susquehanna River from Williamsport, where that homey annual title of Americana, baseball's Little League World Series, takes place every August.

Summer school was closed, and a prayer vigil was to be held in the high school library last night.

"This is a place where everyone knows everyone," Mr Chandler said. "I just don't know what to say. All we can do

is to stay here, stay available. These disasters happen, and they're like water off a duck's back – until you get one close to home. You don't just look at them as students, they were my friends."

Paris awoke to news of the explosion of Flight 800, which evoked disbelief, shock and horrific memories. Less than a year ago, a terrorist bomb exploded on the Metro at the height of the tourist season. The centre of activity yesterday, though, was Charles de Gaulle, the French capital's main international airport, where the flight had been due to arrive at 8.15am.

Friends and relatives of passengers believed to have been on the flight from New York arrived at the airport from early morning, some with eyes red from crying, others solemn or blank-faced.

Clearly, most had heard about the disaster before they set out and they made themselves known to airport staff on arrival. They were given red stickers identifying them only as

people "waiting" to meet passengers, and directed to Gate 12, where the flight had been due to arrive.

From there they were spirited to three rooms set aside on the upper floor of the terminal, where a team of more than 100 doctors, nurses and counsellors awaited them.

But one elderly woman, who had come to meet her son, learnt that something was wrong only when she saw the word "Cancelled" against TWA Flight 800 on the giant black arrivals board. On inquiring at the TWA desk, she was ushered away by airline staff.

Perhaps the luckiest of all was Domenico Consales, a 66-year-old Calabrian who recently retired from a Pennsylvania job with Westinghouse.

He had booked on a cancelled New York-Rome flight and was among those transferred to Flight 800. His luggage was even ticketed for the doomed flight via Paris, but he had turned up at JFK in time for the earlier direct flight to Rome.

"After about five hours in the air I asked the hostess what time we would be arriving in Paris. It was only at that point that I was aware that I had been put on another plane," he said. "Obviously, my hour had not yet come."



Being there: An unidentified friend or relative of one of the victims is consoled at JFK. Photograph: Rosano Esposito

Disaster stirs memories of Lockerbie

JOJO MOYES

The explosion of the TWA Boeing 747 flight and the deaths of all 229 passengers on board act as an uncomfortable reminder for the relatives of the Lockerbie air crash.

It was on 21 December 1988 that the Pan Am Flight 103 "Maid of the Seas" left Heathrow to fly to New York and Detroit. Not long after take-off it blew up over the Scottish village of Lockerbie, killing all 259 people on board. Eleven more died in the village, on which large portions of wreckage fell in a trail 80 miles long and covering 845 square miles.

The official report into the Lockerbie disaster said an improvised bomb in the forward cargo hold had destroyed the plane within two or three seconds.

The community of Lockerbie yesterday sent its sympathy to relatives who lost their families and friends in the American air crash. Lockerbie community leaders said that they had been sickened and saddened by the news of the disaster.

In a statement, the convenor of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Allan Baldwin, said: "Anyone hearing the news of the recent air crash off Long Island can only feel deeply for the relatives and friends of those who died."

"We in Dumfries and Galloway, who shared the grief of families around the world at the time of the Lockerbie air disaster, have, perhaps a special reason for expressing our sympathy."

The chairman of the Locker-

bie UK families group, Dr Jim Swire, said they had set up a phone line for relatives of the victims of this latest crash.

Dr Swire, who lost his daughter on Pan Am Flight 103, said the bereaved families would need help and counselling. "We can offer the hand of human friendship and, unfortunately, the voice of experience as to what these people may be going through," he said.

Dr Swire, who has been deeply involved in the legal battles that have followed Lockerbie, said that he and other families could also help with legal advice.

The Lockerbie bombing is the biggest unsolved murder in British criminal history. The investigation into the disaster has spawned as many theories as there were victims.

Some say that Palestinian, Syrian and Libyan terrorists were responsible, while others believe that it was a secret-service plot.

The targets of the attack have been variously described as US intelligence officers returning from a Beirut hostages-rescue mission, a South African government delegation travelling to Washington, the American ambassador to Lebanon and drug smugglers. More than seven years after the explosion took place, no convincing explanation has been produced.

But the lessons learned by US crash investigators as a result of the Lockerbie disaster, including advances in forensic science and in knowledge of ways to structure an investigation, are likely to help speed the inquiry into the fate of the TWA jet.

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THE LAST FLIGHT OF TWA 800

الطيران الأخير

228 travellers perished in an instant

Questions about 25-year-old jet

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

Airlines and aircraft manufacturers will privately be hoping that a bomb caused yesterday's disaster, since any other possibility raises fundamental issues about safety.

While the presence of a bomb will lead to the usual questions about airport security and lead to yet more demands for tightening it, a mechanical failure in the 25-year-old aircraft will lead to much more searching enquiries about the safety of both old aircraft in general and the 747 specifically. It will also reduce confidence among passengers about the safety of flying, which terrifies airline executives since the whole industry is based on getting people into what one called "flying molotov cocktails".

Investigators will focus on whether there is any similarity between this crash and four incidents in the early 1990s involving engines dropping off early 747s similar to the one that crashed yesterday.

While a bomb is one plausible explanation, the crash occurred during take-off, one of the most dangerous times during a flight. Despite the immediate call of the FBI, there are some powerful counter-arguments against the bomb theory. First, what was the terrorist thinking behind the placing of the bomb on this particular aircraft? Security at Kennedy is, despite the airport's chaotic Third World feel, very tight and the US is generally in a heightened state of alert because of the Olympic Games at Atlanta.

While Athens, from where the plane flew before starting its ill-fated flight towards Paris, has had a poor reputation for security in the past, airline insiders said it had recently improved with the help of US expertise. Moreover, as Kieron Daly of *Flight International* magazine explained, putting a bomb on the plane at Athens with a timer set for much later when it would be in the US would be relying on a lot of luck. "The terrorist would be setting the timer for 14 hours or so in advance,

making it quite likely it would go off in the wrong place. Why would they do that, rather than just blow up the plane on its first leg?" Timers are particularly difficult to get past security.

Mr Daly said that the other main triggering device used in bombs is based on changing air pressure inside the cabin and could not have been placed in Athens since it would have been triggered on the first flight.

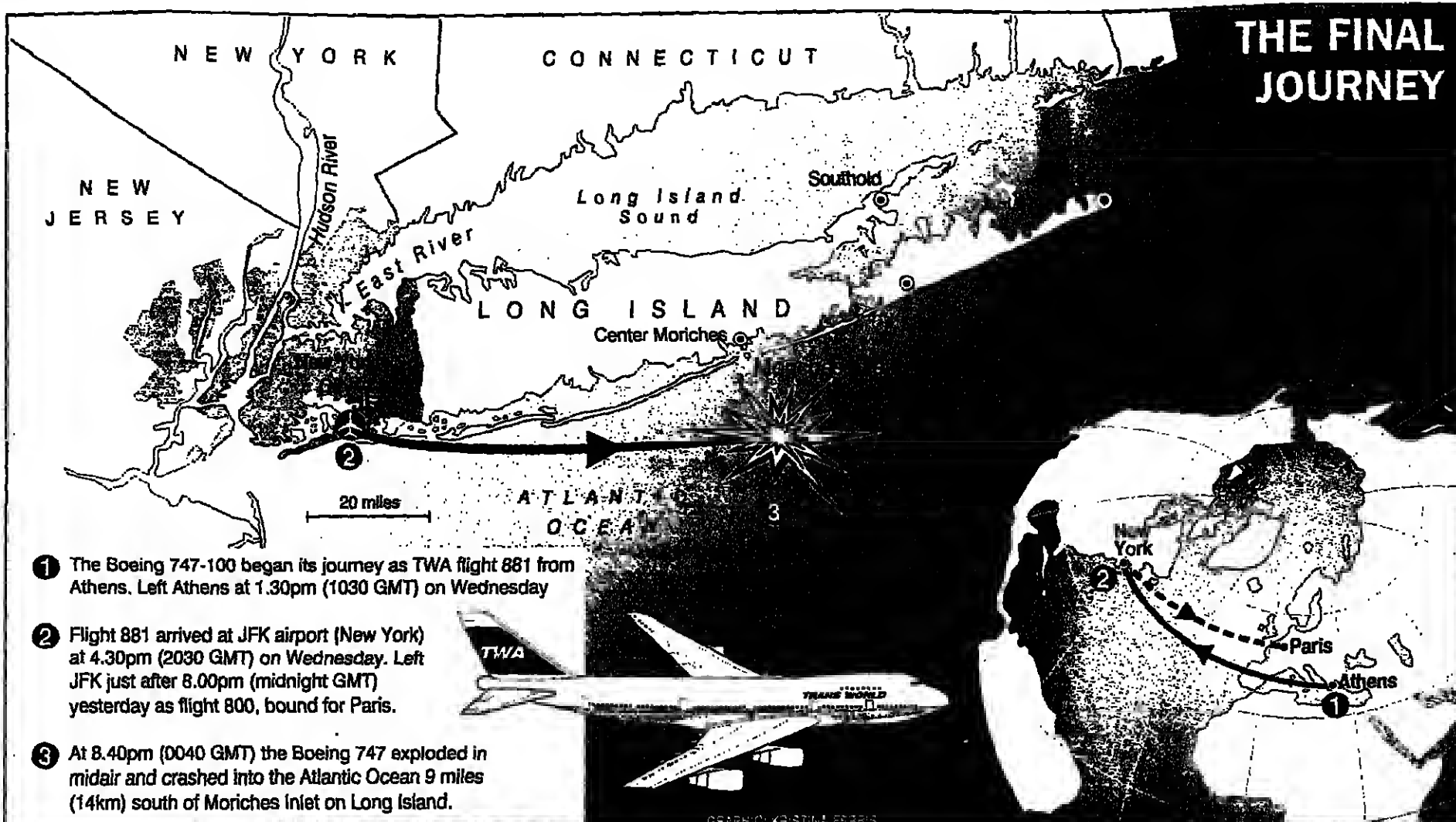
If there was a mechanical failure, the speed and power of the explosion suggest that it must have involved one of the four Pratt and Whitney JT9D engines. Any other failure would not have been likely to have caused such an explosion. However, those engines have proved very reliable.

While this is the 16th of the early version Boeing 747s to be lost in an accident (out of 724 manufactured), most previous incidents involved terrorism or non-mechanical failures such as the collision between two 747s on Tenerife in 1975, when 583 people died in the world's worst air disaster.

However, there was a worrying series of crashes involving the 747s in the early 1990s caused by a design fault in the fuse pins, part of the structure holding the engines onto the wing. The pins were designed to snap under extreme vibration to ensure that the wing did not break off in those conditions.

However, after the El Al crash in Amsterdam in October 1992 when 43 people were killed, Boeing was forced to redesign the engine mountings and retrofit old planes at an estimated cost of \$1bn. The cause of the El Al crash was the failure of the fuse pins, causing both engines on one wing to fall off and the new design is an attempt to ensure that this does not happen again.

Boeing was last night trying to ascertain whether the new mountings had been fitted to the aircraft that crashed yesterday. One difficulty when speculating about the causes of crashes is that increasing numbers are unexplained or are due to complex causes. Two crashes in the US in the 1990s involving 737s remain unexplained.



1 The Boeing 747-100 began its journey as TWA flight 881 from Athens. Left Athens at 1.30pm (1030 GMT) on Wednesday

2 Flight 881 arrived at JFK airport (New York) at 4.30pm (2030 GMT) on Wednesday. Left JFK just after 8.00pm (midnight GMT) yesterday as flight 800, bound for Paris.

3 At 8.40pm (0040 GMT) the Boeing 747 exploded in midair and crashed into the Atlantic Ocean 9 miles (14km) south of Moriches Inlet on Long Island.

The search for the perpetrators begins

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

In the wake of any large explosion, American eyes turn to the Middle East - though allegations may be more muted since the Oklahoma bombing last year. Pundits were already discussing the Islamic threat and the motives of Hamas and Islamic Jihad in striking at Oklahoma City when it was revealed that the bombers were home grown.

Until this year TWA's flight 800 terminated in Israel - but that is a tenuous link on which to base suggestions that the bombers come from the Middle East. However, supposing that the TWA flight was destroyed by a bomb, and that the bomb was believed to have come

from the Middle East, the culprit would be a long way from being identified. The United States has long put allegations of "terrorism" in the Middle East at the service of the demonisation of its political enemies, such as Iran, and has shown limited interest in the real perpetrators.

Saudi Arabian and US investigators are still looking for those behind the truck bomb which killed 19 US soldiers last month in Dhahran. The truck bomb in Beirut which killed 242 US marines in 1983 and the bomb on the Pan Am flight which blew up over Lockerbie in 1988 have never been entirely explained.

The Arab-Israeli struggle and the conflicts which followed the Iranian revolution in

1979 have both generated covert wars in the Middle East which have long affected the rest of the world. In the Eighties the battle was at its most intense during the Iran-Iraq war and during the intervention by Israel and the US in Lebanon.

In the Nineties, covert conflict has been most visible between Israel and the Palestinians. After the massacre of 29 Palestinians in a mosque in Hebron in 1994, Hamas and Islamic Jihad launched a campaign of suicide bombings which culminated in four attacks in Israel in March and April this year, killing 63 people.

Bizarrely, President Bill Clinton took the opportunity at a summit dedicated to combating terror at Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt to attack Hamas, Islam-

ic Jihad and Hizbollah, the Lebanese guerrillas. Nobody supposed that the latter had anything to do with the suicide bombings, but the US supported the Israeli bombardment of southern Lebanon in April which was aimed at Hizbollah.

The so-called Grapes of Wrath operation in Lebanon and the election of a right-wing government in Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu have both raised the political temperature in the region in the last two months. But there is no reason why this should lead to the blowing up of a US aircraft.

The chance that any one bag being carried on an aircraft contains a bomb is one in a billion. The task of screening baggage makes finding a needle in

a haystack look trivial: roughly 2 billion pieces of luggage are carried on commercial aircraft every year, one or two bombs are found every year.

However, devices do slip through. The technology can pick out a suspicious item in hold or hand baggage on a screen, but the sheer volume tends to overwhelm the system. In 1994, four airlines failed to detect Semtex bombs being smuggled onto aircraft at Heathrow by government investigators.

Small amounts of explosive can have devastating effects: the Lockerbie bomb was reckoned to be only as large as a bag of sugar, but it ripped apart the hold of Pan Am 103.

Earlier this week British scientists unveiled a system to pro-

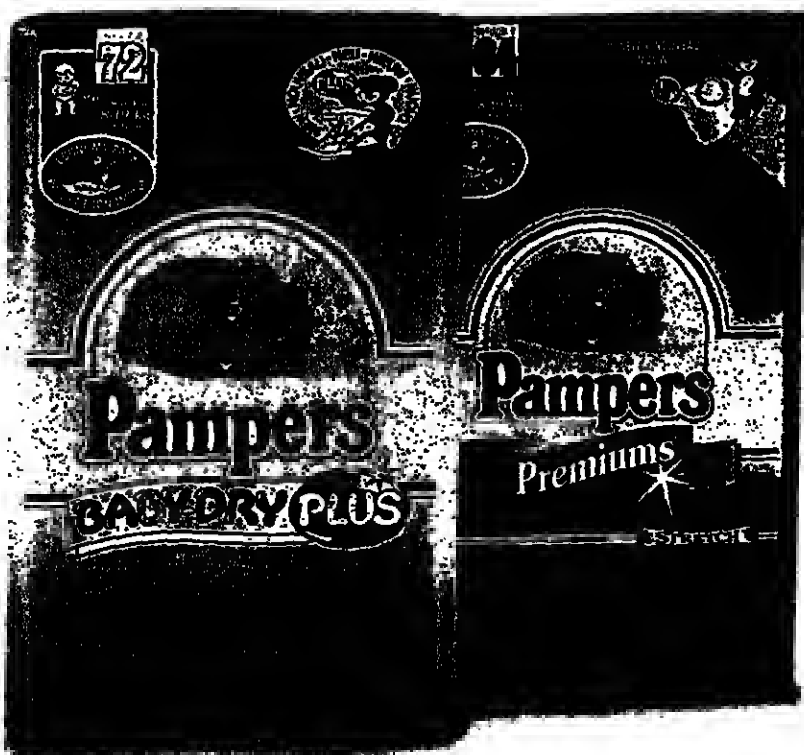
tect against such attacks by lining the cargo hold with a material similar to the bulletproof body armour Kevlar, to withstand the shock waves of an explosion.

Chris Peel, technical director on the programme at the Defence Evaluation and Research Agency at Farnborough, Hampshire, said tests showed that "we have made a significant step forward pushing the chance of survival up to 75 or 80 per cent".

The lining adds about 3 tons to a typical jumbo jet's weight and would increase running costs by £750,000 over its projected life span. Mr Peel said he expected aviation authorities in Britain and the US soon to make it compulsory for airlines to boost protection against terrorist attacks in this way.

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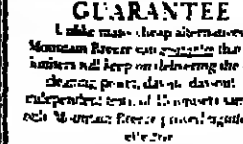
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CP 11/10/95

MoD faces flak for missing artworks

CHRIS BLACKHURST
Westminster Correspondent

Officials at the Ministry of Defence were hauled over the coals yesterday for their lackadaisical attitude towards the paintings and other works of art that adorn their Whitehall offices and military bases.

In a savage report, the Commons Public Accounts Committee tore into the mandarins, saying it believed that "nobody would be as careless with their own pictures as the Ministry of Defence have been with these publicly-owned works of art".

The MPs on the Tory-dominated committee said they were "concerned about the failure of stewardship - the failure to apply principles that people would regard as commonsense, to their responsibilities as public servants". The criticism followed a damning study by the National Audit Office, the public spending watchdog, which found that works of art had been leaving MoD buildings by the trolley-load, no one seeming to know where they were going.

Ministry staff, the NAO said, have been able to locate just 15 of 205 valuable pictures that have been missing for a number of years from the walls of military barracks, officers' messes and office buildings.

One of the missing prints was taken in 1991 from the ministry flat of Tom King, then Secretary of State, and has not been recovered. Of the MoD's inventory of 900 works of art, said the watchdog, 190 were missing.

According to the MoD police 23 pictures have been stolen over the years. In one case, four former Territorial officers put

the artwork, *Richmond Hill in the Summer*, painted in 1862 by Jasper Francis Cropsey, up for sale through Bonhams, the London auctioneers. It was valued at £400,000 but just before the auction their commanding officer stepped in and contacted solicitors to block the sale.

A portrait on loan from the National Army Museum, *An Officer of the 28th Foot* (artist unknown), disappeared when the quartermaster general's offices were relocated from London to Andover in 1992. MoD police did not investigate the loss until 1994 and are still looking for it. In 1991, the ministry listed as missing a fine print called *View of the Boardroom of the Admiralty*, by Thomas Rowlandson and Augustus Charles Pugin - which was actually hanging in the Admiralty boardroom.

Officers' houses, which have aroused political controversy for their sumptuous decor, have also benefited from the ministry's largesse with its art collection. Two prints were transferred without government consent to Hill Top House, Korbucke, in Germany, an official staff residence. Five prints have gone missing and the Government's curators are looking at interior photographs of the house to see if they were left behind on the walls.

MPs said they "considered it very unsatisfactory that the department managed to lose so many works of art", and accused officers, especially some loan holders, of irresponsibility. The committee said it wanted firm action against those who "abuse the trust placed in them". It was unacceptable that the MoD had not kept an inventory.

Blueprints figure highly as artist expresses his complete body of work



Roll with it: Australian artist Tim Maslen, covered head-to-toe in 'Yves Kline' blue paint, uses his body to print himself on canvas outside the Whitechapel Gallery in London yesterday. The work, part of an Open Artists' Day, is designed to highlight ignorance and alienation in society. Photograph: Nick Turpin

Botham hits 'inadequate' Imran apology for six

Ian Botham yesterday rejected a suggestion that he should have accepted proposals to settle his dispute with Imran Khan "in the interests of the great name of cricket" and to avoid a "blood battle in the courts".

Botham and his England colleague Allan Lamb are suing Imran over an "offensive personal attack" on them in *India Today* magazine which called

them racist, uneducated and lacking in class and upbringing. Botham alone is suing over a May 1994 story in the *Sun*, which, he says, accused him of ball tampering - something he says he has never done.

Imran, who denies libel, says that his words were taken out of context and that he was only trying to defend himself.

On the witness stand for the

fourth day in the High Court action, Botham was adamant that nothing communicated to him by the former Pakistan captain amounted to an apology.

Imran's QC, George Carman, asked Botham to compare a "polite, decent, gentle, kind letter" sent to him by Imran, dissociating himself from any negative comments about the Englishman which had ap-

peared in his biography, and an "intemperate if not vicious" article written by Botham about Imran.

Botham did not accept that the open letter from Imran, which was intended for publication in the *Times* two months after the *Sun* article appeared and as he prepared to issue a writ, was an apology.

Imran said in the letter that

he had never called Botham or Lamb racist, or cheats, but regarded them as true sportsmen. He went on to call for the laws on ball tampering to be clarified.

Mr Carman asked Botham: "In the interests of the great name of cricket and in the interests of avoiding some kind of blood battle in these courts ... did you not think that that was a fair and reasonable proposal

which you might accept?" Botham replied: "No sir, I did not."

Mr Carman continued: "Did you not think the letter was written in a spirit of good faith?"

"No sir, I do not," said Botham. "I think it's another smoke-screen. I do not think that is an apology, which is all I asked for."

The case continues today.

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news

Police knew him for years as a violent paedophile, yet no one stopped him from stealing an innocent life

Police in north Wales knew for many years about the paedophilic and violent tendencies of Howard Hughes. It emerged yesterday after he was jailed for life for the savage double rape and murder of seven-year-old Sophie Hook. Hughes's record dates back to his mid-teens when he was arrested after attempting to assault a boy in a public toilet and then strangle him.

Social services officials in north Wales yesterday argued that his subsequent conviction and suspended sentence for assault – a Schedule One offence – meant police should have entered his name on a warning register and alerted the children's agencies.

However, a north Wales police spokeswoman said last night that criticism from the social services staff made little sense when Howard Hughes had been known to social services from an early age. She said that the police had had a good working relationship with social services, and that arrangements for working with other agencies had been tightened up across the country since 1981.

North Wales police are understood, however, to have interpreted the definition of Schedule One narrowly, applying it only to sex offenders.

After Hughes was found guilty, the judge at Chester Crown Court yesterday called for a change in the law to protect society against men like him. Recommending that Hughes should never be released, Mr Justice Curtis said that the country needed a statutory system of supervision and control. "Your crimes are every parent's nightmare. No girl is or ever will be safe from you."

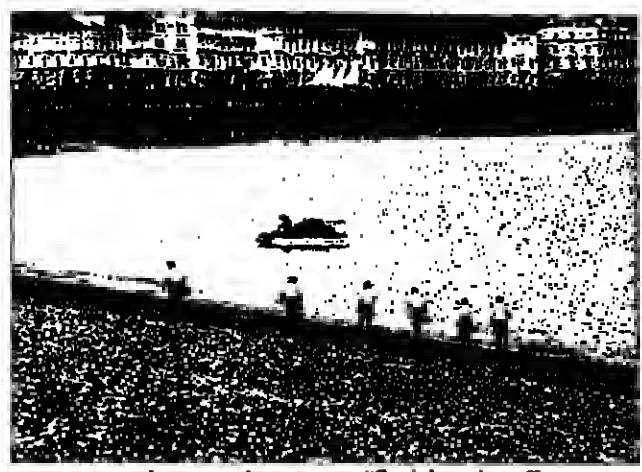
The Home Office said later that the judge's recommendation about tighter supervision for paedophiles had already been addressed in a consultant document launched last month when Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, announced preliminary plans to set up a register of sex offenders.

Hughes had been the subject of complaint from various

Howard Hughes was yesterday jailed for life for murdering Sophie Hook, report Louise Jury and Chris Blackhurst



The search for Sophie, snatched from her uncle's tent (above), led to Llandudno beach. Photograph: Iolo Williams



sources over the years. Among them, the *Independent* has learned, was the Llyn Onn children's home in Colwyn Bay who told police that Hughes had contacted one of their boys residents. The boy had previously been a resident at Bryn Estyn, the children's home at the centre of the Clwyd child abuse scandal, where he had been abused. Hughes himself spent 15 days in Bryn Estyn on the way to treatment at St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, under the Mental Health Act.

"Social work staff were very worried about Hughes, who was hanging around the home," a senior social services source said yesterday. "They went to the police, who could have arrested him." Police did issue a warning, through their child protection team, last year, shortly before Sophie was killed in Llandudno in August. The social workers argue that the police should have maintained a vigil instead. In the close-knit community of Colwyn Bay where he grew

up, Hughes was known as "Mad Howard". The son of Rene and Gerald, a successful and well-respected businessman, he had been difficult from an early age and shown signs of emotional insecurity. A chromosomal abnormality had left him exceptionally tall, at 6ft 8ins. Shortly after his 10th birthday he had been sent to a special school for children with behavioural problems in Derbyshire. His parents paid for private tuition, but he was never to gain any qualifications.

Hughes' peers spoke of his violent tendencies even as a youth. "He was always in fights with people much older than him," one said. "He was always killing things, like small animals. Everyone knew his reputation – you didn't mess with him."

He was obsessed with children. In the mid-Eighties he approached a girl, thought to be 11 or 12, in some woods for sex. In 1993, a 15-year-old alleged she was assaulted by him with intent to rape, and an 11-year-old claimed he spied on her. Last year, two witnesses spoke of indecent suggestions being made to them, and a 15-year-old girl was threatened with rape.

Detective Superintendent Eric Jones confirmed Hughes had been closely watched since 1981, but added: "I have had a look at the papers we have in relation to Howard Hughes and I am quite happy in my own mind that everything that could have been done at various stages was done."

Malcolm King, policy and resources chairman at Wrexham Borough Council and former chair of Cwyd Social Services, said: "It appears that this person was known to all the agencies in Colwyn Bay for many years and it must give everybody the greatest cause for concern that he had been on the loose for so long. If we dealt with the issue of Schedule One offenders differently, maybe this would not have happened."

Mr King also sits on the North Wales Police Authority, and plans to raise the Hughes case at its next meeting.



Guilty face: Howard Hughes arriving at Chester Crown Court, and his victim Sophie Hook. Photograph: Andrew Price

Murderer with sick mind who lived out his fantasies

LOUISE JURY

Howard Hughes outlined his fantasy of raping and murdering a little girl 18 months before seven-year-old Sophie Hook was left for dead on a Welsh beach.

In a confession to Michael Guidi, himself a convicted sex offender, Hughes spoke of his desire to have sex with a girl and then kill her.

"He said he would strangle her or cut her throat," Mr Guidi told Chester Crown court, in a horrifying prediction of what was to come. "He said this over a period of time and on more than one occasion," said Mr Guidi, who was Hughes's friend since the age of 13, and his former lodger in Colwyn Bay, North Wales.

This was not the only warning sign. It took the jury more than an hour to view Hughes's extensive collection of pornographic pictures of naked or scantily-clad children. During a search of the home he shared with his mother in Yerburch Avenue, police also found a collection of children's underwear in a stone wall in the garden.

Hughes was an unnerving presence, roaming the district on his mountain bike or with his Rottweiler, Bryn, at his side. Yet nothing could have prepared the small North Wales community for the day when he decided to turn his fantasy to reality.

On the summer's day on which Sophie was to die, Hughes had first approached a seven-year-old girl doing handstands in the park and asked her

to go with him. She ran away, scared.

Sophie Hook was less fortunate. As she and her sister Jemma excitedly splashed naked in a paddling pool, the family was not to know that Hughes was already lurking nearby.

The Hughes had travelled from their home in Budworth, near Winsford, Cheshire, to visit Mrs Hook's sister, Fiona Jones, and her husband Danny, in Llandudno for cousin Luke Jones's ninth birthday.

As the celebrations drew to a close, the children were so enthusiastic about continuing the fun that the families agreed to allow them to camp out in a tent in the garden. There seemed no reason to worry.

But it was from the tent that Sophie was abducted. Stripped of her nightdress, she was raped, beaten about the head and strangled. One arm was broken, probably in an act of deliberate violence. She was dumped in the sea, apparently in an attempt to hide evidence.

Police arrested Hughes within hours. He maintained his innocence, despite having been spotted carrying a sack with a

limb hanging out of it. Only when his father visited him at the police station did he break down and confess: "Dad, I did it... You don't know what it is like to be sexually frustrated; you don't know what it is."

Hughes went on, his father said, to tell unprompted the story of what happened. He was to deny it all in court. "I didn't do it," he shouted, even as he was led away to start his sentence.

The Hook family were left baffled and numbed. Jemma Hook, two years older than her sister, said that she wanted to join Sophie in heaven. The girls' parents said they could not understand how anyone could be so evil.

Today Julie Hook, 35, and her husband Christopher, 38, an advertising executive, are expected to speak publicly about their traumatic 12 months.

They have shown dignity and courage throughout, according to the policewoman who has supported them, Detective Chief Inspector Lorraine Johnson. "This is not the end for them," she said yesterday. "They will carry this cross for the rest of their lives."

Hidden danger of the pet lizard in the living room

LIZ HUNT
Health Editor

Doctors are warning people of the dangers of keeping reptiles as pets, after a baby girl developed meningitis following contact with a lizard.

The baby's parents allowed their pet Monitor lizard to roam the house, and the child is thought to have been infected through contact with its stools.

A bacterium belonging to a salmonella species, which is common in reptiles but rare in humans, was responsible for the baby's illness. Her older sister was infected with another type of salmonella bacterium, which is also found in reptiles.

In a letter in tomorrow's issue of the *Lancet*, Dr Guy Makin and colleagues from Sheffield Children's Hospital and the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, describe how the baby was admitted to hospital with fever and sickness. Her condition deteriorated and tests confirmed meningitis. Antibiotic



Big lizards: Monitors can grow to several feet long

treatment was started and the baby was well enough to go home 18 days later.

A report in the same journal in May detailed the case of a young man infected with salmonella by his pet lizards and who lost his job in a food-processing factory.

The risk of salmonella infections from reptiles is well known in the United States, where in the 1970s a federal ban was imposed on the sale of turtles as pets.

Writing in the *Lancet* Dr Makin and colleagues appealed

for parents to be made aware of the health risk posed to their children. "We suggest that health warnings, specifically relating to the unsuitability of these animals as pets in families with young children, become mandatory in the UK."

Dr Makin said it was well known for salmonella infection to give rise to meningitis. "I've not personally encountered a case like this before, but looking at the literature it is obviously widely recognised in the States where there is a much larger population of indigenous lizards," he said.

"There is a particular problem in relation to turtles and rattlesnakes – snakes are eaten by some ethnic groups and this is one way you can be infected. People who have young children should be aware that this is a real risk. I think it would be reasonable to say they shouldn't keep lizards as pets if they have young children."

Monitors are large lizards. Some species grow up to six-foot long, or more.

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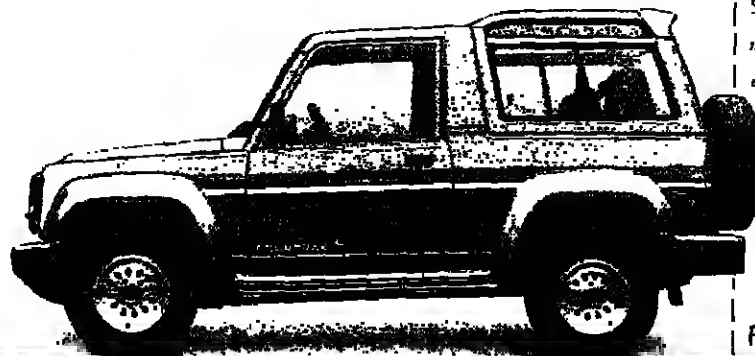
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Proms play new tune with gospel choir

LOUISE JURY

A Henry Wood Promenade Concert is to be devoted to gospel music for the first time. The appearance of the London Adventist Choral at the Royal Albert Hall next month shows a determination by the BBC, which runs the Proms, to attract a new audience to the most traditional event on the classical music calendar.

The 28-strong amateur choir is to be augmented to 40 for its biggest performance date yet. Ken Burton, the Choral's musical director, said they were looking forward to the appearance on 4 August with a "mixture of excitement and fear".

But they were thrilled to have been asked to take part. Mr Burton, 26, said: "I'm very very happy that we've been given the privilege of performing in the largest music festival in the world and that gospel music is getting this exposure. As

people see more of it, I'm sure it will be taken more seriously."

But they were surprised at the invitation. Echoing a typical public perception, Mr Burton said: "The Proms are normally classical, though I saw a poster at the Tube station the other day for South American music so I know they're trying to expand on the global music."

The concert will consist mainly of spirituals, including popular numbers like *Nobody Knows the Troubles I've Seen*, because spirituals are the "roots of gospel", Mr Burton said.

"They're really the earliest form of gospel music. Performing spirituals unaccompanied is our staple diet - we're just doing the things that we're used to doing."

The choir draws singers from across London, all from Adventist churches, where singing is an integral part of worship. Mr Burton said it was a form of spreading the gospels. "Music

is a powerful tool in getting the message across to people. It has the greatest importance in our services - it's as important as prayer."

All the members of the choir are black. "But we don't have a policy of exclusion. We did have a Spanish girl, but she's gone back to Spain now," he said.

Mr Burton is a professional musician who studied piano and singing at Goldsmith's College, London. He runs gospel music workshops and masterclasses in the UK, Holland and Ireland, as well as teaching and conducting.

Last year the Choral were the winners in Stunbury's Choir of the Year competition.

They are approaching the big occasion in their usual fashion. "We always encourage people when they sing to think on the words and the experience rather than just open the mouth and sing," Mr Burton said.

Jigsaw pieces that make up a musical miracle

What will it be like on stage at the Albert Hall? I crept into the role of Proms performer only once myself, in the neo-musical but nevertheless vital role of pianist's page-turner (a part which, however, has the potential to cause chaos if not performed properly).

In retrospect, the occasion has a certain poetic appropriateness: in his first Prom season as controller, Robert Ponsooby asked his predecessor, Sir William Glock, to play a Mozart piano quartet with members of the Lindsay Quartet, and I turned the pages for Sir William.

As only the fifth person on the Albert Hall stage in front of a packed house of thousands, which was to be treated to *Boulez in Mahler's Second* after the interval, one felt the full force of the incredible concentration of that audience, an audience surely unequalled in the world for its responsiveness and open-mindedness.

That Proms' audience is the first huge benefit for any new director. There is also 100 years of history and a reputation for novelty and adventure. There is an instantly recognisable brand-name, and the commitment of the BBC as patron and promoter, willing and able to risk new works, providing adequate rehearsal and preparation.

First Person



Nicholas Kenyon, Controller of BBC Radio 3, tonight launches his first season as director of the BBC Proms, and considers the challenges

The Proms' planner starts with these vast advantages, and I had the daunting delight of starting with a blank sheet. In spite of what Bayan Northcott wrote in his very perceptive preview on Wednesday, I and my team did plan every single one of this year's concerts ourselves. We had some marvellous strokes of luck: the Berlin Phil-

harmonic, not best pleased with Salzburg at the moment, preferring to come back to the Proms - where they received such an extraordinary reception two years ago, the Chicago Symphony on tour, but prepared to mount a special performance of the *Beethoven Choral Symphony* for us.

I like thematic planning. But I think it's difficult for all-embracing themes to work at the Proms: besides, there's so much to fit in to what is actually less than 200 hours of concert-giving and broadcasting. So I went for an interlocking jigsaw puzzle of themes: creation, starting with Haydn tonight but also taking in Milhaud, Rameau and Rebel, and recreation, highlighting composers' reworkings of other composers' music, from Elgar and Sibelius to Schoenberg providing a technical dreamcoat for Brahms, and Vaughan Williams making use of Tullis.

Among the innovations this year is the Proms in the Park, our final extravaganza, which will beam the second half of the Last Night into Hyde Park.

I hope the event goes to prove that the Proms are for everyone, and can be enjoyed by everyone. I've inherited one of the miracles of the musical world.

Movie row: British actress furious as she loses out to starlet in £3m film



Photograph: David Sandison

Rejected: "If you try to translate the dialect to America the play will not work," Jane Horrocks says

Not so fabulous as Hollywood steals show from Lancashire

DAVID LISTER

The British actress Jane Horrocks, best known for her television role as Bubbles in *Absolutely Fabulous*, has been beaten to a starring role in a £3m movie by a Hollywood starlet.

The role, that of a Lancashire girl who has a gift of mimicry and can imitate stars from Judy Garland and Marilyn Monroe to Cilla Black, is one that Horrocks made her own on the British stage.

She had been asked to star in the film version of her West End hit *Rise and Fall of Little Voice* and yesterday she

ridiculed the change of heart by the film company Miramax which means that an all-American cast will play a working-class Lancashire family. The role will now go to Gwyneth Paltrow, the girlfriend of Brad Pitt, the Hollywood actor who will also be in the film.

"It is so farcical you can only laugh about it," Horrocks said of the decision. "If you get angry about it you would just grind yourself down."

"It is so ludicrous. It is like doing *Ah Fuh* [to which she plays Bubbles the dim secretary] in America. They have got to have it because

it has been a success here. "I don't know why they can't appreciate something for what it is. If you try to transport the Lancashire dialect to America the play would not work."

She added: "I don't want them to destroy the play by not understanding what it is about."

Pitt is tipped to play the male lead role and Meryl Streep the part of the mother, which was played in Britain by Alison Steadman.

Horrocks starred in the play for eight months in London and was critically acclaimed for her ability to mimic the voices of Hollywood stars of the past.



Chosen: Gwyneth Paltrow

Photograph: All Action

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Scott publishes government's secret papers

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

A unique insight into the conduct of government was published yesterday by Sir Richard Scott, the High Court judge who carried out the damning investigation into the export of defence-related equipment to Iraq.

The quantity of material was so great – 20,000 pages – that it had to be published on CD-ROM: two discs and a booklet priced at £176.25p. But the discs gave access to "secret", "confidential" and other Whitehall papers which underlined Sir Richard's judgements – that while Margaret Thatcher, John Major, and William Waldegrave were honourable people, they had conducted a policy that allowed arms-related equipment to go to a regime that had, among other things, used chemical warfare against its own Kurdish minority.

In addition, because of the political outcry that would have followed an open announcement of the change, it was not only kept secret but many MPs, and Parliament as a whole, were misled. All were told that there had been no change.

Yesterday, while Mr Waldegrave, now Chief Secretary to

the Treasury, was presenting plans to Cabinet for the coming year's spending restraint on which tax cuts and Tory hopes for the next election rest, reams of material were being prepared that would underline Sir Richard's verdict on him.

The heart of the matter was the decision on December 1988, taken by Mr Waldegrave, then a Foreign Office minister, and two middle-rank ministerial colleagues – Alan Clark and Lord Trefgarne – to relax guidelines under which defence-related equipment could be sent to Iraq.

Although Sir Richard uncovered minutes, files and other evidence showing that the export guidelines had been changed, Mr Waldegrave and others insisted they had not. That prompted Sir Richard to condemn "the duplicitous nature of the flexibility claimed for the guidelines".

He also said those who argued the change could not have taken place because Baroness Thatcher had not endorsed it were guilty of "sophistry".

But the files also get tantalisingly close to Mr Major, who was Foreign Secretary in July 1989 when the Cabinet Defence and Overseas Policy Committee was sent a minute on the sale of

Hawk aircraft to Iraq. That minute, published in full for the first time yesterday, said that while the export guidelines stipulated that nothing lethal should be sold either to Iran or Iraq, "Ministers have agreed to interpret them in a more flexible fashion".

Mr Major subsequently wrote letters, as Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister, insisting that the policy remained impartial, and he told Sir Richard that he continued to stand by that judgement.

Sir Richard replied: "I do not doubt Mr Major's evidence that he signed the letters believing the statements they contained to be accurate, but I do not accept that they were in fact accurate."

Eyes down and single file please, for the biggest geography lesson in the world



When pupils from Sunny Bank Junior School, Potters Bar, investigated a stretch of Hertfordshire yesterday, even James Clappison, the Environment minister, dropped in for a visit. The 8- and 9-year-olds are among 50,000 pupils taking part in the Land Use – UK survey. Photograph: Keith Dohney

Tory party to control choice of candidates

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

The Conservative Party is poised to mimic Labour's central control over the choosing of parliamentary candidates in the next parliament, according to Central Office sources.

Brian Mawhinney, party chairman, is believed to be unhappy at the shortage of women candidates chosen in winnable seats and at the selection of some mavericks by local Tory associations, which guard their autonomy jealously.

Dr Mawhinney is expected to ask representatives of local Tories to re-examine the rules for choosing candidates after the election.

So far only four women have been selected in safe Tory seats, against more than 50 men.

Central Office has also been concerned about the number of ministerial advisers and other "professional politicians" being chosen.

Dr Mawhinney has discussed with Robin Hodgson, chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations, tightening up the procedure for admitting hopefuls to the list of approved potential candidates.

Senior Central Office officials were unhappy with some people on the list, including John Kennedy, the candidate for the new Tory seat of

Halesowen and Rowley Regis. Mr Kennedy, formerly John Gvozdenovic, has been an apologist for the Bosnian Serb cause and introduced Yugoslav-born Zoran Jancic to the former party chairman Jeremy Hanley. Mr Jancic's contributions to Tory funds have been the subject of an investigation by Dr Mawhinney.

A further option for change would be to stop local associations choosing one of their members if he or she is not on the approved list.

This would effectively give Central Office the same degree of control as does the Labour procedure, which requires endorsement by the party's National Executive.

Tory strategists regarded with envy Labour's ruthless control of candidate selection, as demonstrated by the way Liz Davies, a member of the editorial board of the hard-left *Labour Briefing*, was forced to stand down as candidate for Leeds North-east.

But Dr Mawhinney is strongly resisting plans put forward by the National Union for local associations to have a greater say in the election of the party leader. At present, only Tory MPs have a vote in leadership elections. The National Union is trying to respond to growing pressure from the grassroots for a direct say.



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DAILY POEM

You Will Know When You Get There

By Allen Curnow

Nobody comes up from the sea as late as this in the day and the season, and nobody else goes down

the last steep kilometre, wet-metalled where a shower passed shredding the light which keeps pouring out of its tank in the sky, through summits, trees, vapours thickening and thinning, too

credibly by half celestial, the dammed reservoir up there keeps emptying while the light lasts over the sea, where it "gathers the gold against it". The light is bits of crushed rock randomly

glinting underfoot, wetted by the short shower, and down you go and so in its way does the sun which gets there first. Boys, two of them, turn campfirelit faces, a hesitancy to speak

is a hesitancy of the earth rolling back and away behind this man going down to the sea with a bag to pick mussels, having an arrangement with the tide, the ocean to be shallowed three point seven metres,

one hour's light to be left and there's the excrecent moon sponging off the last of it. A door slams, a heavy wave, a door, the sea-floor shudders. Down you go alone, so late, into the surge-black fissure.

Allen Curnow, born 1911 at Timaru, is New Zealand's most important poet and a key figure in the emergence of New Zealand literature in the second half of the 20th century. He spent part of his life as a journalist and a vernacular directness is evident in much of his poetry. Penguin published his *Selected Poems 1940-1988* in 1990 and last month he joined Donald Davie and Samuel Menashe in *Penguin Modern Poets 7*.

international

Donor row: Divisions in Pyongyang jeopardise help for flood victims

Suspicious N Koreans block UN food aid

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY
Tokyo

Ten months after devastating floods forced it to make an unprecedented appeal for international aid, the secretive government of North Korea is behaving with characteristic ambivalence towards the outside world.

In Tokyo this week, a delegation led by one of the country's leading economic reformers embarked on what five years ago would have been inconceivable: an international tour aimed at attracting foreign investment to one of the most closed and xenophobic countries in the world. At the same time, United Nations officials are facing bureaucratic obstacles in supervising the distribution of aid to flood-stricken areas.

Particularly frustrated is the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) which established an office last November in the capital, Pyongyang. In May, Trevor Fage, the WFP's country director for North Korea, left Pyongyang after upsetting hard-line elements in the military with his outspoken statements about the seriousness of the food shortage. Last month his successor was evacuated to Hong Kong with a stomach complaint; his stand-in was forced to leave the country after the North Korean authorities refused to renew his visa.

The WFP plays a crucial role in North Korea and constantly has to reconcile the defensiveness of the Pyongyang government with the suspicions of the outside world. It is responsible for much of the \$43.6m (£28.5m) in aid being sought from international donors, and

it also supervises the shipment and distribution of food aid. The UN Development Programme will shortly announce a fresh appeal for \$37m of rehabilitation and reconstruction aid, \$1m of which has already been secured from UN central funds.

But international donors, particularly South Korea, have often expressed the suspicion that Pyongyang may divert humanitarian aid to its million-strong army, or sell it in exchange for hard currency. UN officials insist this is not happening but say that Pyongyang's obstructiveness is jeopardising the flow of aid.

"The donor countries trust the UN system and we are the guarantor that aid is getting to the people it is intended to help," said Faruk Achikzad, the UN's resident co-ordinator in Pyongyang. "We have told the government that if they don't allow the monitoring then everything else collapses."

The problem appears to reflect internal divisions between the military and more practical reform-minded elements in the foreign and economic ministries.

In February, aid agencies were told to cancel a planned appeal because of resistance within the military, which objected to the way the country was being portrayed as a victim.

The latest trouble centred on an Indian official, VK Jain, who took over the WFP operation after the acting head became ill. Mr Jain was forced to leave the country after he was refused the necessary visa. "We got no explanation, and they didn't even reply to my letters," said Mr Achikzad. "It might have been his nationality, it might have been that he just asked too many questions."



A word in your ear: Alexei Krasnyuk, 10, one of many children to suffer as a result of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, is greeted by a lama at the Marine World/Africa park in Vallejo, California. He was one of 50 victims of the disaster taken to the US by the Chernobyl Children's Project. Photograph: AP

UN arms team at halt after Iraq bar

LEON BARKHO
Reuters

Baghdad — A team of United Nations arms experts has suspended its inspection programme after being barred by Iraq from entering a "sensitive site", a senior UN inspector said yesterday.

Nikita Smidovich, the chief inspector, said: "We are waiting here. We have suspended our operations." Mr Smidovich said that since his arrival earlier this week at the head of 34 international arms experts, he had been allowed into one site Iraq deemed crucial to its national security. "The other site we were not even allowed to approach," the veteran Russian inspector said.

Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission scrapping Iraq's banned weapons under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, informed the Security Council on Wednesday of the problems facing Mr Smidovich's latest task.

The Security Council has asked Baghdad to give Mr Smidovich unimpeded access to any site he wishes to inspect.

On a visit to Baghdad last month Mr Ekeus and the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Tariq Aziz, signed an agreement in which Iraq pledged to grant UN inspectors immediate access provided they fully respected Iraq's concerns over sovereignty when visiting "sensitive sites".

Iraq's ambassador to the UN, Nizar Hamdoon, said on Wednesday that the latest confrontation was exceptional and did not signal a breakdown of June's agreement.

Mr Smidovich said he was awaiting instructions from Mr Ekeus on what to do next. His experts, he said, were back at their base in Baghdad.

The latest row over access is the second in less than a month. The previous incident, the Iraqis barred Mr Smidovich and about 50 international arms experts from entering military sites belonging to the Republic's elite force, the Republican Guards, in and around Baghdad. Mr Smidovich would not describe the site he was prevented from entering.

Cannes mayor on casino bribery charges

MARY DEJEVSKY
Paris

The mayor of the French Riviera resort of Cannes, Michel Mouillot, was in prison last night on corruption charges after a sting operation in which an alleged intermediary was caught receiving a large sum of money in a hotel in central London.

The operation, in which French police, French intelligence and Scotland Yard were said to have co-operated, could finally end the political career of Mr Mouillot, who is appealing against his conviction on an earlier corruption charge.

The latest case reportedly

involves an application for a fruit machine licence submitted by a British-owned company, London Clubs, for its Carlton Club casino in Cannes.

According to the newspaper *Le Monde* yesterday, London Clubs had established that its returns were falling badly behind those of two other casinos in Cannes and decided that it was time to copy those more profitable operations and have fruit machines installed. For this, however, it required a licence from the city authorities.

The response to the application was said to have been a request from the mayor's office,

at a tête-à-tête meeting, for a 3m franc (£390,000) kickback "towards election expenses". At this point, London Clubs decided not to play the game by local rules and contacted the police. From that point on, French intelligence became involved, and an undercover operation was set in train to trap the culprits.

London Clubs agreed to negotiate payment of half the solicited kickback upfront before 28 June when its licence application came before the city council, and the other half when the licence was approved and the machines installed.

The first part of the trans-

action was agreed by telephone and supposed to take place at 9am on 28 June at the Ritz hotel in London. The representative of London Clubs was told to look out for a woman named as "Madame Clement", who would be immediately recognisable by being very tall.

The day before, however, the meeting was called off. Mr Mouillot's office reportedly said that "cousin" was "ill". None the less, the licence was approved next day.

A fortnight later, a new rendezvous was fixed — for 17 July at 9.30, this time with a man. He was apprehended by police in the act of receiving the

suitcase containing FFm in cash, and named as Daniel Teruel, a Frenchman aged 46. However, a couple from Cannes who were staying in London, and to whom he was supposed to have handed over the money, had vanished.

Within hours of the arrest in London, the head of Mr Mouillot's private office and his office manager were arrested in Cannes, but Mr Mouillot — said to be at his country villa — was nowhere to be found.

He was finally arrested on his return late in the evening, and remanded in custody. French police are seeking the extradition of Mr Teruel.

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Middle East talks: Pledge to allow more West Bank workers into Israel eases new premier's meeting with Egyptian leader

Peace boost as Cairo warms to Netanyahu

PATRICK COCKBURN
Jerusalem

In his first meeting with an Arab head of state, Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, promised yesterday in Cairo to stick to agreements Israel had signed with its Arab neighbours. But he offered President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt few specific concessions and said there are "different interpretations" of the land-for-peace formula which is the basis of Arab-Israeli agreements.

In a small conciliatory gesture Mr Netanyahu said his government would ease its five-month-long sealing off of the Palestinian areas in Gaza and the West Bank by allowing an extra 10,000 workers to enter Israel. He also said that David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, would meet Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, next week.

Although Mr Netanyahu offered little new, it was enough for Mr Mubarak to say: "I think that after such a meeting today I have great hopes that the process will continue ... I can tell you now that I am very relaxed."

The warm welcome for Mr Netanyahu's promises to con-

tinue the peace process is in part a tribute to his success in systematically lowering expectations among his Arab neighbours about what to expect from Israel. It also stems from Mr Mubarak's need to balance between the United States and the Arab world. The Egyptian leader goes to Washington at the end of the month.

Mr Mubarak said: "The two sides should proceed to negotiate the final status of the West Bank and Gaza - the sooner the better. Together with that, negotiations must resume on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks without delay." But since Mr Netanyahu has refused any compromise on Palestinian statehood, Israeli settlements, Jerusalem or withdrawal from the Golan, such negotiations are unlikely to have much substance.

The cordial tone of the discussions in Cairo are in contrast to the insults hurled at Mr Netanyahu by the Egyptian opposition press which, in a clumsy play on the Arabic pronunciation of his name, described him as "a dirty smell". The Israeli leader said nothing new about the withdrawal of Israeli forces from most of the

Palestinian city of Hebron, though this is expected over the next month. Under the terms of an agreement signed last year Israeli troops will keep control of one-fifth of Hebron where 400-500 Jewish settlers live surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians.

There are signs on the West Bank that Israel is continuing its redeployment. Just west of Nablus, an Israeli checkpoint at a vital crossroads has been removed. The army brigade in charge of the Nablus area is to be disbanded, Israeli radio said yesterday. This thinning out of troops is probably because of the completion of bypass roads linking Israeli settlements to Israel.

In Washington and in Cairo Mr Netanyahu refused to say that he would not build more settlements. Settlers themselves

have spoken about doubling their numbers in the next four years to 300,000. In practice, Mr Netanyahu will probably be satisfied with more settlements in and around Jerusalem and close to the green line which divides the city.

Sach Erekat, a senior Palestinian official, said however that "another settlement here or there will not promote Israel's security. Yet such settlements create a negative impression with Palestinians, comparable to the feeling in Israel that follows from a bus explosion". Saying that the Palestine Authority had done everything it could against Palestinian guerrilla organisations, Mr Erekat added: "Israel must understand that the Palestinians have not disappeared, and will not disappear. They exist."



Paying respects: Mr Netanyahu at the tomb in Cairo of the Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, killed in 1981. Photograph: AFP

Media nail author of Clinton exposé

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

Hell hath no fury, and heaven no sanctimonious moralising, like the American media when they consider they have been lied to by one of their own. Any doubters on that score should ask Joe Klein.

On Wednesday, after he had been hailed by incontrovertible handwriting evidence, the *Newsweek* political columnist confessed he was the anonymous author of *Primary Colors*, the scathing roman-à-clef about the 1992 Clinton campaign, whose identity has been this publishing season's most entertaining mystery.

A cause for much merriment? Not a bit of it. Instead, Mr Klein finds himself in the midst of a controversy that has seen one commentator liken his earlier denials of authorship to the invented articles of Janet Cooke, probably the greatest blot on the reputation of US journalism in recent decades.

Ms Cooke made up the story of the child heroin addict, Jimmy, and won a Pulitzer prize in 1981 until her deception was revealed. Mr Klein, by con-

trast, has written a work of fiction. His sin (apart from earning \$6m from the enterprise) is having denied authorship to colleagues who challenged him.

But humour is not a prominent quality of the American press. True, *Newsweek* says it will keep him on. CBS owes however, for whom Mr Klein worked as a political commentator, sounds unforgiving. "Clearly it is impossible to have a relationship with someone who is not telling the truth. We put him on the air saying 'No'," an executive lamented.

"He hurts the business of journalism," said Ken Auletta, the media writer of the *New Yorker* magazine. "The *Washington Post*, which was both victim of the Cooke hoax and solver of the Klein case, ran two long pieces leaving no doubt of its profound disapproval."

But if "Anonymous" is dead, *Primary Colors* is not. Next January director Mike Nichols will begin shooting a \$65m (£40m) film of the book, starring Tom Hanks and Emma Thompson as Governor and Mrs Stanton - aka former Arkansas Governor and First Lady, Bill and Hillary Clinton.



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DAEWOO

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

Senior Bosnian Serb and Yugoslav officials flew to Belgrade to discuss intensifying world pressure for the arrest of the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, to face UN war-crimes charges. They were expected to have talks with Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic, ahead of a return visit to Belgrade by the US envoy, Richard Holbrooke, who is pressing Mr Milosevic to extradite Mr Karadzic for trial. *Reuter - Pale*

Mediator Julius Nyerere started closed-door talks on the stalled Burundi peace process in the Tanzanian capital. The talks are expected to chart the next move in a Western-backed African peace plan. The plan was accepted by Burundi's Hutu president and Tutsi Prime Minister but is opposed by Tutsi hardliners backing the army and by the main Hutu rebel group, the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD). *Reuter - Nairobi*

Burmese democracy campaigner Aung San Suu Kyi called in a smuggled video yesterday for international sanctions to be imposed on Burma, to force political change. "What we want are the kind of sanctions that will make it quite clear that economic change in Burma is not possible without political change," the Nobel prize winner said in the video, which was made public by members of the European Parliament. *Reuter - Brussels*

The Chechen rebel commander Salman Raduyev, reported to have been killed after leading a hostage raid and a bloody battle against Russian troops in January, reappeared and said the separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was also alive. He told a news conference at a secret location in Chechnya that General Dudayev, supposed to have been killed in April, was in critical condition. *Reuter*

China said the Dalai Lama was insincere when he said he did not want independence for his Himalayan homeland. "On the one hand he announces that he does not require or ask for the independence of Tibet, and on the other hand he advocates everywhere that Tibet is an independent state occupied by China," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. *Reuter - Peking*

Hundreds of yelling fans welcomed Michael Jackson to South Africa on a visit sponsored by an unlikely coalition of big business and radical black politicians. The pop star, whose album *Thriller* was one of the biggest selling in history, is not due to give any concerts during the three-day visit but will address a news conference at Sun City, 75 miles north-west of Johannesburg, tomorrow. *Reuter - Johannesburg*

To take on heroin producers is to meddle with big business, writes Robert Fisk

Jalalabad — You can see them in the Jalalabad bazaar, young men with withered black arms and sunken eyes, the addicts returned from the Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan, still-living witnesses to the effects of heroin. "It's good for the Afghan people here to see them," a Western aid official says coldly. "Now they can see the effect of all those poppy fields they grow — and if they're as Islamic as they claim they are, maybe they'll stop producing opium." The official smiles grimly, then adds: "Or maybe not."

Probably not. Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province is now responsible for 80 per cent of the country's poppy cultivation — it was producing around 1,300 tonnes of dry opium in 1995 — and heroin-processing laboratories have now been transferred from Pakistan to a frontier strip inside Afghanistan, producing hundreds of kilos of heroin a day and fortified with enough anti-aircraft guns and armoured vehicles to withstand a military offensive.

Local government officials in Jalalabad claim to have eradicated 30,000 hectares of opium and hashish fields in the past two years but their efforts — brave enough given the firepower of the drug-producers — seem as hopeless as the world's attempts to find a solution to drug abuse.

Sitting in Engineer Mahmoud's Drug Control and Development Unit office in a back



Bitter harvest: Farmers can get £170 for seven kilos of opium at market. Poppy cultivation is an agro-business

Photographs: Magnum

street of Jalalabad, the problem seems simple enough. A map on the wall shows Nangarhar with a rash of red pimples along its eastern edge, a patch of opium fields and laboratories that are targets for Mr Mahmoud's armed commandos. "We have been eradicating hashish fields by force, using our weapons to force the farmers to plough up the land," he says. "We are taking our own bulldozers to

plough up some of the poppy fields. We take our guns and rockets with us and the farmers can do nothing to stop our work. Now our *shura* [council] has called the *ulema* [religious authorities] to lecture the people on the evils of drug-production, quoting from the Koran to support their words. And for the first time, we have been able to destroy hashish fields without using force."

Mr Mahmoud and his 10-strong staff have been heartened by the United Nations' support for his project. On the open market in Jalalabad, the farmers receive a mere £95 for 7kg of hashish, £170 for 7kg of opium — around the same price they would receive for grain. So the UN is providing wheat seeds for those farmers who have transferred from drug production, on the grounds that they will make the same profits in the Jalalabad markets.

"We would like more help from the United States," Mr Mahmoud says. "I went to Washington recently and the US drugs prevention authorities took me to their new headquarters. You would not believe how big it is. It is half the size of Jalalabad city. And when I went inside, it is very luxurious and has many, many computers."



Living death: Addicts bring the problem home to Jalalabad

They have all this money there — but none for us who are trying to stop the drug production," Mr Mahmoud's senior staff receive just under £70 a month and his senior assistant, Shamsul Haq, claims that the drugs unit had to buy 4,000kg of maize seed to distribute to farmers last month.

Western humanitarian organisations acknowledge Mr Mahmoud's work but regard any hope of curbing the country's drug production with the deepest pessimism. One of them told his story with a voice rising in anger. "Haji Qadir [governor of Jalalabad] went to the UN drugs people in Islam-

abad and said: 'Look, I have destroyed 20,000 hectares of opium fields — now you must help me because the people are waiting for your help. But it was more complicated than this. Farmers who had never grown poppies began to plant them so they could get free maize seed in return for destroying the fields they had just planted. It was calculated by one of my colleagues that the costs would come to \$1.3m (£850,000)."

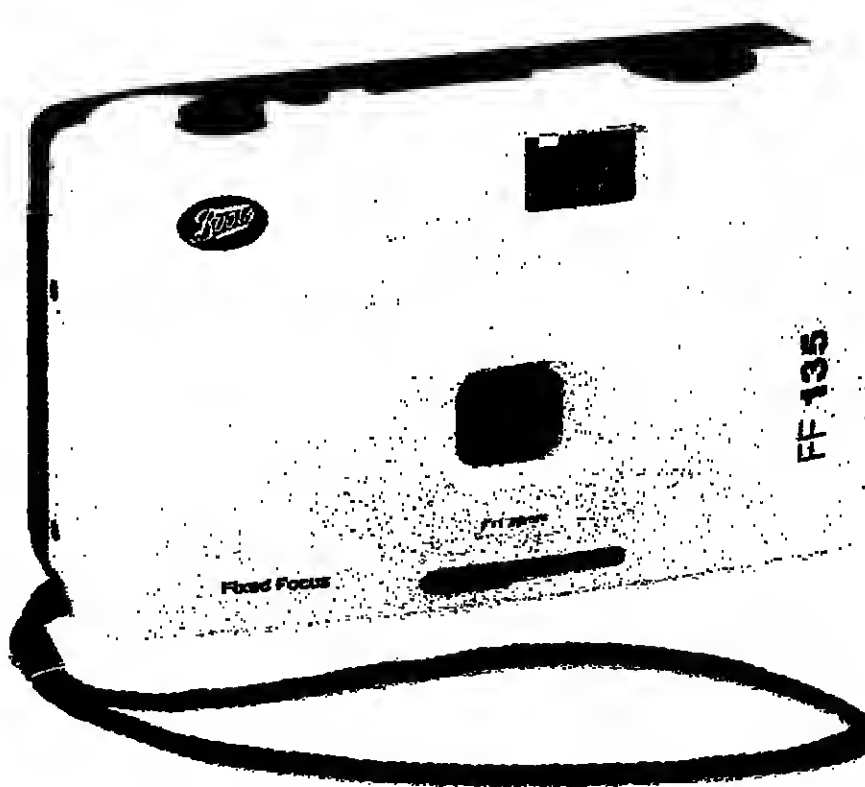
Other aid organisers believe that wheat seeds are assisting poppy production, suspecting that the farmers are rotating their crops between wheat and drugs each season, the opium

abandoned in return for increased payments and weapons which, in the words of one official, were recently travelling in boxes through the Pakistan railway station of Landi Kotail on the Peshawar steam train to the Afghan border.

"Poppy cultivation is an agro-business," he said. "The business dealers for the drug barons have technical advisers who are visiting Nangarhar and other provinces to advise on the crop and the product. They pay in advance. Some are Afghans, some are expatriates, they are turning opium into heroin in newly built factories that even have face masks to protect their workers' health. Some say there is health insurance offered."

How does the world compete with capitalism on so ruthless and illegal a scale? Another European distributing aid in eastern Afghanistan burst into laughter when I asked him the question. "Legalise drugs," he roared. "Legalise the lot. It will be the end of the drug barons. They'll go broke and kill each other. But of course, the world will never accept that. So we'll go on fighting a losing war." It was the grimmest advice he had in Jalalabad this month.

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Fiji essay is taboo. Do not discuss

Suva (AP) — The Fijian government has banned an essay competition organised by the British Embassy in Suva because it says the contest disregards sensitivities over a proposed new constitution. The essay competition for sixth-formers had as its prize two

round-the-world tickets for the winning writers, and was backed by the *Fiji Times*, which is owned by Rupert Murdoch.

The topic was: "How will your future be affected by Fiji's constitution?"

Fiji's constitution is under review and the commission

appointed to reconsider it is expected to table its recommendation to the Fijian head of state, President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, at the end of this month.

The permanent secretary for information, Jioji Kotobalavu, said the government, while not

opposed to essay competitions, was not happy with this one because it involved "two foreign organisations' insensitive to local politics".

Fiji was thrown out of the Commonwealth after two racially inspired military coups in 1987.

Mr Kotobalavu said the British Embassy and the *Fiji Times* should have been sensitive enough to know that the constitution was under review.

"It's just proper that we allow the commission to do its work without undue pressure," he told the *Fiji Times*.

"We have expressed reservations because students who are eligible are preparing for examinations and they should be allowed to prepare instead of being sidetracked by complex and complicated issues like the constitution."

Vineeta Kumar, the British Embassy's information officer, said the embassy had no comment.

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Mind the gap between politicians and strikes

Why on earth did Labour decide to stick its nose in? Like anyone else who wanted to send birthday cards, or travel through the capital yesterday, Tony Blair must have been irritated by the public sector strikes. But instead of seething in silence (as Labour leaders have done before him) Mr Blair authorised his employment spokesman David Blunkett to intervene.

On Wednesday Mr Blunkett argued that London Underground and the Tube drivers should take their case to arbitration. Yesterday Mr Blair's office confirmed that they thought the strike was inappropriate while arbitration beckoned. The Labour leadership has come close to openly condemning the strike, and to criticising the unions' approach.

For many in the party, this will have been mortifying. After all, the party began as the champion of the working people against the employer, not vice versa. John Prescott was reportedly livid about not being consulted. Robin Cook's endorsement of the leadership view sounded decidedly reluctant.

On new Labour's past record we shouldn't really be surprised. Tony Blair is at least as capable of sympathising with employers as with workers in an industrial dispute.

Opposing the Tube strike is good politics for Labour, too. It doesn't take long to get from strikes to the Seventies to Labour governments to "Perhaps I'll vote Tory after all". By back-

ing London Underground this week, Mr Blair is attempting to distance oew Lahour from all those scary memories, and soothe anxious voters once more.

As a gesture then, it may be understandable. But as an approach to industrial relations from a potential government it is deeply mistaken. And it is a sad departure from the measured abstentions by Labour leaders past, whenever strikes broke out.

Until this week, the Labour leadership had maintained a studious silence over the rights and wrongs of particular battles for years, often because they were too embarrassed to intervene.

Each time Labour's argument was the same: it wasn't appropriate for politicians to take sides in management disputes. This is an unfashionable position, difficult to maintain in practice, but it is absolutely right in principle.

The role of government in industrial relations is to set the rules, not take sides. So long as government itself is not the direct employer (which it isn't) for either the Tube drivers or the postal workers then it can only establish the framework in which others must negotiate. In these current disputes, both management and unions have behaved stupidly, but they must slug it out together and come to an agreement. If politicians are unhappy then they should start amending the framework, not handing out advice.

But maybe the rules do need to be

changed. After all, these public sector strikes are frustrating and expensive for everyone. Postal communication and public transport are important services, on which the country depends. They are virtual monopolies too, so consumers have to bear the highest costs of the strike. If you wanted to get a letter delivered on time yesterday, or to take a trip from Barking to Tottenham Court Road, the alternatives to the post and the Tube were expensive. Could there be a case for preventing damaging trade union action in these kinds of sectors, as many on the right have suggested?

No. Trade union legislation in general is tight enough. The balance of power in most industrial disputes is already heavily weighted towards the employer, thanks to changes in the labour market and in legislation.

Nor would it be appropriate to bring in no-strike rules for the entire public sector. The price of no-strike deals is high in terms of the wages and conditions needed to maintain the trust and goodwill of the workforce. All that happens is that one group after another picks up cosy inflation-proofed pay deals. The end result is a Southern American-style corporatist state.

The Labour Party appears to be flirting with another option: introducing binding arbitration for public sector workers. It sounds fair and conciliatory enough: whenever a dispute arises, unions and management would be forced to go to arbitration. However, in practice compulsory arbitration could become a bureaucratic nightmare. In countries that have binding arbitration, every little quibble over working practices ends up in arbitration and straightforward deals and decisions are delayed.

But governments cannot entirely keep their hands clean in public sector disputes. For example, Post Office management would have far more freedom to manoeuvre if they didn't have to hand over so much cash to the government. The culture among both management and employees in certain public sector organisations needs to change. Old hierarchies and strict job delineations should be replaced by more flexible practices, just as they have in newly privatised companies. Structural reform rather than union legislation may be a better answer to industrial relations problems.

In the end, for all the inconvenience of the strikes this week, we should keep the disputes in proportion. London Underground and the Post Office do not have long-term recruitment problems. But other parts of the public sector do, thanks to a public sector pay policy that prevents salaries keeping up with the private sector. For example, any government, Labour or Conserv-

ative, will face pressure to pay teachers more if it wants to recruit the best people. Plastering over the hole in public finances by shaving away at public sector pay is not sustainable.

When the public and politicians worry about clashes between a Labour government and stoppy trade unions they are missing the point. Union militancy is a minor problem today compared to the serious long-term employment and pay problems in the public sector that any government will face.

The sweet smell of the press

Gordon's are scenting adverts to capture their gin's essence. Why stop there? Why not impregnate the printed editorial pages with nose-tickling evocations of subject matter. A leader column might raise a hint of vintage Taylor's. The sports report would be enhanced by that piquant mixture of spilt lager and sweat. A Glynedebourne first night would smell of champagne and cow dung. But too much of this will worry John Gummer. He is giving Britain an admirable international reputation in the battle to control atmospheric pollution. A sudden rush of scented emissions could let the side down.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mentally ill need funds, not asylums

Sir: It is right to be concerned about the way community care is working for people with severe mental illness ("Major in mental health rethink", 16 July). It is right to take action now. But it is wrong to assume that a return to small-scale "asylums" will meet anything more than a small proportion of the need.

Clearly, there are people with severe mental illness who, for their own safety and that of the general public, need at times to be cared for in a secure environment. But the majority - with the right support - can manage their illness whilst living as members of the community.

The real reason why the Government's community care policies aren't "working as well as they should" lies mainly in its poor co-ordination of planning and resourcing at central government level, and in its determination to close long-stay hospitals but not to guarantee the resources and the commitment to ensure that care and services are available in the community for those people who need them.

Without addressing the fundamental chaos at central government level over who plans and pays for health and social care, the Prime Minister's idea to create separate local mental health authorities will achieve nothing. The real need is for adequate resources and well-managed, integrated community services. To segregate mental health care once again would make good co-ordination of all the other services more difficult and would do nothing to ensure adequate funding for either hospital or community-based mental health services.

JUNE MCKERROW
Director
The Mental Health Foundation
London W1

Sir: Concern welcomes the Government's volte face. Not so long ago, having closed one fifth of the psychiatric hospitals in the UK, the Government had a blueprint to close all the remainder.

Hospitals are not a problem - they are the solution. The hospital is a community, which has a range of appropriate facilities and services to maximise chronic patients' daily living skills, guard them against derision and exploitation and maintain a seamless 24-hour watch over their well-being with the opportunity for constant modification to their treatment according to fluctuations in their conditions.

Over £75m was spent in closing Friern Hospital, the finest psychiatric hospital in Europe with the best industrial therapy in the world. Since then, there has been a further expenditure of some £6m in building projects and an annual expenditure of some £6m in accommodating patients in private hospitals at up to five times the cost per patient in NHS hospitals.

As far as can be seen, Mr Major's solution is to have a further reorganisation. We have seen little else during the life of this government, with no time to digest one turmoil before we are in the midst of another - and, characteristically, little, if any, money to pay even for those projects of which he approves, with annual "efficiency savings" particularly hitting the most efficient and the proportion of the

NHS budget spent on mental illness being constantly reduced.
Dr MALCOLM WELLER,
Chairman
Concern
London NW3

Sir: So John Major thinks "poor co-ordination" between health and social services is a barrier to delivering good quality mental health services. So it is. But before the Prime Minister gets bogged down in the complexities of the wholesale reorganisation that would be necessary to create new mental health authorities, perhaps he might consider putting his weight behind the call for the appointment of a mental health services ombudsman, so far resisted by his ministers.

Some additional resources to fund Stephen Dorrell's February commitments would not go amiss and could make savings in the long run.

LYNNE JONES MP
(Birmingham Selly Oak, Lab)
House of Commons
London SW1

UN battles on in Bosnia

Sir: We were puzzled by Sarah Helm's report ("Refugees can never go home, says UN", 17 July) stating that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has "given up returning all Bosnian refugees to their homes, and accepted an ethnically cleansed Bosnia".

We've done no such thing. To imply that there has somehow been a behind-the-scenes policy shift is incorrect.

Under the Dayton Agreement, 2 million Bosnian refugees and displaced have the right freely to choose their place of residence. Many will want to relocate to Bosnia-Herzegovina, and many will want to go to their original homes. UNHCR's job is to help them do it. But the obstacles are enormous because the same hard-liners who waged the war to create ethnically pure states in Bosnia are still calling the shots. They go to extreme lengths to obstruct our continuing efforts to facilitate returns or even temporary visits across former front lines.

Shortly after the Dayton Peace Agreement, UNHCR set a maximum planning figure of up to 870,000 returns for 1996. But we repeatedly stressed that this best-case planning figure depended on achieving optimum conditions for return - full security and human rights, freedom of movement, economic opportunities, reconstruction, amnesties and mine removal. Obviously, those optimal conditions are not yet in place. UNHCR has publicly stated many times that we will be lucky to see even a quarter of the 2 million refugees and displaced return this year. We have not, as the article states, reduced the target to 135,000.

Of the more than 80,000 people who have so far gone back, virtually none have returned to areas where they are in the minority. Where realistic, large scale minority returns are probably years away. Thus at present, we are concentrating on what is achievable now - returning people to their

homes in areas where there is heavy destruction but no security threat. This means primarily to "majority" areas. The report you cite identified 19 priority areas which, if funding is provided for reconstruction, could see the return of an additional 135,000 people this year - bringing the total to well over 200,000.
RON REDMOND
UNHCR Spokesman
Geneva

Cadet Force helps to avoid crime

Sir: Your Defence Correspondent has been led by some ill-informed MoD source to exaggerate the risk the Army Cadet Force is taking in what it is doing in the margins of its work to help underprivileged young people make the best of themselves and avoid getting into mischief for want of something better to do ("Anger over cadet plan for offenders", 13 July).

Our projects to date, developed with great care, have all been hugely successful and attracted widespread support from the level of Lord Lieutenant down to local teacher. The credit for this must go to our voluntary leaders and, not least, our senior cadets, who want to be involved and, like the vast majority of youngsters we seek to help, are marvellous, caring young people. As an example, we have a 15-year-old cadet cycling 10 miles twice a week to help an adult get a project off the ground.

It has absolutely nothing to do

with boot camps - and we are not taking on those into serious crime. Nor is it Home Office inspired, although we appreciate and welcome their support. Youngsters who take advantage of our offer come entirely of their own free will. For our part we are simply trying to do our best for more young people by offering them fun, friendship, confidence-building opportunities and the attributes and skills to enable them to become responsible, successful young people.

Li-Gen Sir DAVID SCOTT,
BARRETT
Chairman
The Army Cadet Force Association
London SW3

Albanians in Macedonia

Sir: Miranda Vickers, in her article "Kosovo set to ignite new Balkan war" (8 July), rightly warns about the situation in the province of Kosovo and the possibilities of conflict. However, she is not precise enough when she writes that the Albanian minority in the Republic of Macedonia represents 40 per cent of the population. In the last official census of 1991, (supervised by the Council of Europe), 22.9 per cent of the population declared themselves as part of the Albanian minority. KONSTANTIN DORAKOVSKI
Counsellor
Embassy of the Republic of Macedonia
London W1

A new heart for Manchester

Sir: There is undoubtedly a need and an opportunity for an imaginative approach to replanning the centre of Manchester in the wake of the IRA bomb (report, 16 July).

Manchester needs more than a collection of new buildings designed with sensitivity to the grain, scale and structure of its centre. Rather it needs a city centre that is commercially strong, environmentally sustainable and people-friendly. Accessibility and affordability matter very much - it is vital that there is room for the traders displaced from the Corn Exchange, for example. Ultimately the key issues are about urban design and city planning.

My personal vision (as a member of the Mancunian diaspora) would be to replan the centre around the themes of reconciliation and tolerance. These would be affirmed through public art, landscaping, buildings' uses, and a transport and street pattern negotiable and safe for all the citizens, young and old, women and disabled people. This would be the best response to those who sought to bomb the heart out of the city. At a time when government planning policy recognises the importance of vital and viable town centres, this would reaffirm Manchester's cosmopolitan traditions and reassert confidence in the city. Professor CLIFF HAGUE
President
The Royal Town Planning Institute
London W1

World Service, a lifeline amid lies

Sir: Your leading article about the importance of the BBC World Service (17 July) reminded me of the fraught days preceding the Tiananmen Square massacre. We were staying on a Peking university campus in a hall of residence which housed foreign students, lecturers, and research scholars. Luckily, one person had a good short-wave radio, which we all gathered around several times a day.

One entry in my diary is typical. On Sunday, 21 May, we were woken early by some of the English and American students pounding on the door of the Canadian who owned the short-wave radio. Several of them had been up all night, sitting on the flat roof of our building to observe what was happening because there had been rumours about troops arriving at the campus and the Chinese students had been dashing to the various gates, hoping to repel them. When we then hurried to the foyer, we heard the 7am World Service broadcast, telling us that the troops were all stopped in the suburbs, held back by the workers and by barricades at all major intersections. On that day, as so all others when we were desperate for news, the World Service was there - accurate and clear and truthful.

You were right to stress the highly prized independence of the World Service, and its treatment of listeners as "adults capable of hearing truthful accounts". Listening to it here in East and in the early morning hours provides a far more adult experience than most of the BBC domestic news programmes. Instead of the World Service purchasing programmes from the BBC News and Current Affairs, shouldn't it be the other way round?

ELEANOR FISHERMAN
London N5

Sir: It's not just the future of the BBC World Service which is at stake (report, 16 July; letter, 18 July). English, as a pure international language, also comes under threat.

The BBC World Service - radio and television - is the best English language broadcaster in the world. I know BBC broadcasters who go out of their way to use plain English - and you can't say that of most other broadcasting organisations.

The English language is Britain's greatest asset. The BBC uses it with care and skill for the millions who are listening in a non-mother tongue. Anything that threatens good plain English must be opposed.
CHRIS MAHER
Director
Plain English Campaign
Stockport, Greater Manchester

Lesson of history

Sir: Dr Brian Mahoney oow offers the slogan "New Labour: No Britain". As a Liberal Democrat I can safely say that what New Labour believes is not my problem. However, Dr Mahoney's underlying assertion that separate parliaments destroy Britain is a plain historical error. For the first 104 years of its existence Britain was a union of sovereign states with separate parliaments and separate governments. Historians of all political persuasions would be willing to testify to this fact. Perhaps Margaret Thatcher was right that the National Curriculum should have included more British political history. Professor the Earl RUSSELL
House of Lords
London SW1

Silicon souls

Scientists claim we will one day be able to share totally someone else's life via computer 'soul' chips. But human experience cannot be digitised, says Andrew Brown

Immortality will be available early in the next century. Some people might be sceptical about this, if only because the announcement of the conquest of death has been made by British Telecom.

Certainly the prospect of an afterlife mediated through the telephone system conjures up some bizarre ideas of hell, or limbo. "Your reincarnation is being queued until a body is available to receive it. Please hold until a body is free. Thank you for calling Afterlife Central. Your reincarnation is being queued..." and so on for all eternity.

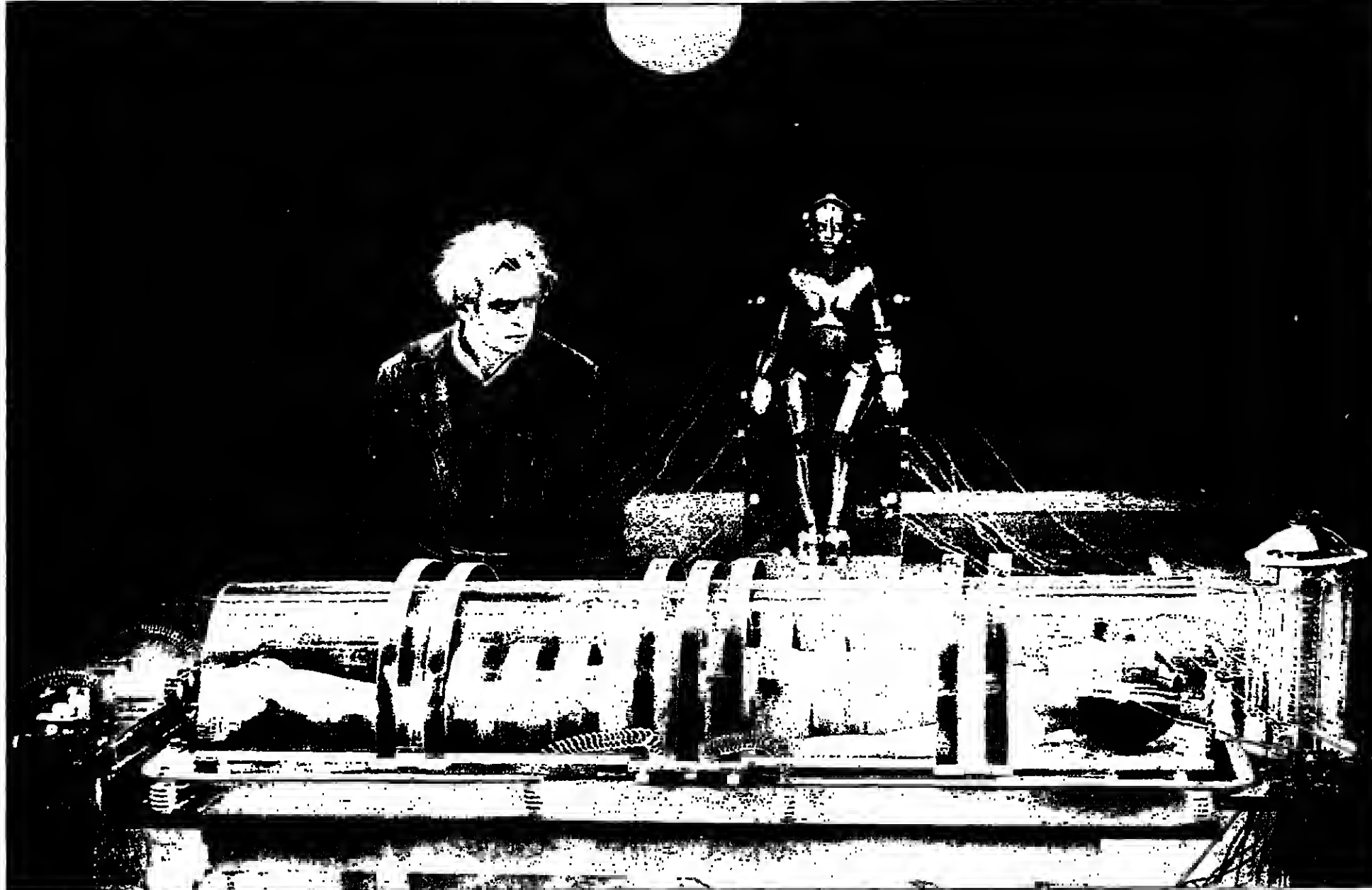
BT's artificial life research team says it hopes to record the electrical pulses that pass down our nervous system - for example from the eye to the brain - onto memory chips. The basic principle is that once these pulses have been recorded from one person's eyes, they could be played back into someone else's brain. BT researchers are now talking about extending this to cover all the sensory inputs to the brain, so that the raw material of everything a person sees, feels, hears, smells and tastes

One of the scientists predicted: 'This is the end of death'

could be captured in some kind of black box, using almost unimaginably powerful memory chips. The scientists at BT's Martlesham Heath laboratories in Ipswich call the chip the Soul Catcher.

One member of the BT team wistfully predicted: "This is the end of death." In perhaps three decades, he said, it would be possible to relive other people's lives by playing back their complete recorded experiences via a computer. With the Soul Catcher, a new baby could be given the digitised lifetime experiences of a dead person.

It is almost pure science fiction. In William Gibson's world half the characters wear electronically enhanced "eyes" of this sort. BT's engineers are assuming the capacity of memory chips will continue to increase a hundredfold every decade, as they have done for



The British Telecom laboratory at Martlesham Heath. Actually no, it's a brain-crunching scene from Fritz Lang's early sci-fi film *Metropolis*

Photograph: Ronald Grant/Archive

the past 20 years. But even if they don't it would simply mean that one chip was not enough to hold a lifetime's experience.

The really interesting problems are not altered even if the black-box chip has to be changed every year - or every day. For what BT's engineers are assuming is that human experience can be digitised, and that when we see, hear, or feel, our brains are manipulating data according to complex rules, just as computers do. They are proposing as fact one of the classic thought experiments of artificial intelligence: the brain in a vat.

The brain in a vat is a brain with electronic wires grafted into its nerve endings which supply it with all the sensations it would have had from the outside world. In the original form of this experiment, the substitution would be performed slowly, sense by sense, as it is in Frederick Pohl's science fiction novel *Man Plus*.

The BT researchers seem to be proposing something altogether more ambitious: not virtual reality, but transferable reality. These speculations are very hot at the moment. More than a thousand scientists and philosophers attended a conference in Tucson, Arizona, in

the spring, entitled "Towards a Science of Consciousness", where all manner of speculations about the nature of reality and of experience were bandied about.

Most of the people there believe they are standing on the verge of a revolution as profound and exciting as that brought about by Crick and Watson's discovery of DNA. The brain, after all, doesn't use any spooky technology so far as we can tell. Electrical signals are carried round it with the help of chemical reactions, and though the machinery for this is very complicated indeed, it is still just electric currents and chemical reactions. There can be no reason, why the pattern of pulses in your retinal nerve while you read this could not be duplicated in silicon, even if the technology to do this is nowhere in sight.

Yet there was a surprisingly strong backlash at Tucson against the sort of confidence the BT researchers take for granted. The world of consciousness research is deeply split between those people who believe that consciousness and experience are fundamentally nothing more than a form of information processing, and those who believe that our brains are both more

complex and more biologically determined than that. As far as I could see, the balance of advantage in the argument is moving away from the information processors. Even the strongest proponents of "strong artificial intelligence", who believe we could create a computer that thought and experienced in the same ways we do, now agree it will require an extraordinary degree of complexity. Danny Hillis, a former whizz-kid at the American Massachusetts Institute of Technology - who founded a supercomputer company named Thinking Machines - suggested that you would need a network of computers a thousand times larger than the present Internet to begin to do useful design work on an artificial mind.

Among neuroscientists, the scepticism runs a great deal deeper. The brain and its processes grow more complex the more closely they are examined; and it becomes harder and harder to draw firm boundaries between information and its processing. The BT scheme for transferable experience is based on the idea that there is at some stage a feed of raw data from the sense organs, which is then processed by the brain. But this raw data is harder and

harder to find. The distinction between the brain and the surrounding vat begins to look unreliable.

Dr Doug Watt, a neuroscientist at Quincey Hospital in Boston, was one of the most eloquent defenders of the essentially biological nature of our experience at the Tucson conference. He points out that all our experiences have an emotional content: they are not neutral information. "It is really almost impossible to separate cognition and emotional worth. Emotional worth is embedded in just about everything we do. It is essential for working memory. A recent project at Yale found there was nearly no such thing as an emotionally neutral word."

The essential thing that makes experience tolerable, he says, is that it is ours: integrated in a world we understand because it is made of our memories. When this integration breaks down, the result is psychosis, or delirium, not the kind of simple transfer of information envisaged by BT.

What is more, the structures of working memory are dependent on physical connections inside the brain. These vary from brain to brain, both genetically and as a result of experience. And the sorts of experi-

ence that can shape the brain change at different ages. A child brought up in the dark for the first three years of its life will never see properly, even though its optic nerve is fully developed. It is well-known that babies brought up without any human affection or interaction will quite often die. They are genetically programmed to expect affection and response from the world around them, and when this fails to happen, says Dr Watt, "they are tortured in the most profound way. They are trying to make sense of a world which just will not make sense because it is emotionally wrong."

Dr Fraser Watts, a former president of the British Psychological Association who is now the Starbridge lecturer in science and theology at Cambridge University, says: "You can't just pipe experience from one individual to another. Our experiences are the result of the interaction of sensory input and the way we process it. This is a process involving continual feedback from the brain to the sensory apparatus."

"It is the translation of nerve impulses into experience that is the problem: the boundaries between science and science fiction are much more blurred than people realise."

The dreams of the BT scientists can be traced at least as far back as Frankenstein's monster. It is a curious fact that when scientists have gone in for science fictional speculation, they have gone much further than professional writers dared. In *Brave New World*, published in 1929, Aldous Huxley foresaw most of the Nineties: genetic engineering, recreational drug use, easy sexual manners - and, in a development strikingly like BT's "feelies" films that contained what we now would call virtual reality. Huxley's contemporary, the Marxist geneticist JBS Haldane, was imagining much wilder futures, in which the human race would attain to immortality.

Similarly, the science fiction of William Gibson takes for granted the kind of melding between brain and silicon that the BT researchers strive for. People wear silicon implants to give them memory, and rent out brain space to hide corporate data in. Sober neuroscientists won't say anything about these possibilities. After a couple of beers, they will say that the only implant which shows any sign of improving human brain perfor-

The dreams can be traced back as far as Frankenstein's monster

mance or curing Alzheimer's comes from aborted foetuses, which is why no one will discuss the subject publicly.

But Gibson's world is in many ways more realistic than the imaginings of scientists such as Frank Tipler, whose book, *The Physics of Immortality*, publicised the idea that the human personality is just so much software that can be digitised and stored, and then reloaded as will on to better hardware.

His characters wear silicon-enhanced eyes that allow their experiences to be shared by others. But they are not immortal, and they continue to inhabit a recognisable social world. When they share their experiences it is not with helpful policemen or amusing friends, as in the BT fantasies. In Gibson's world, the experiences are shared with a world-wide audience of voyeurs and the wearers of implants are highly-paid stars in whose life as celebrities there is no distinction between work and play.

His silicon-enhanced eyes are a lot more like television cameras than optic nerves. They feed a pre-processed version of reality to an audience which uses its own eyes and brains to make sense of it. And if there is one thing that the reaction to the BT announcement makes clear, it is that this is a lot more realistic than any other forms of virtual reality. Pure information that could pass from brain to computer and back again unchanged is as impossible a commodity as eternal life.

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Ulster: could that man on the radio help?

So, what do you make of the situation in Northern Ireland, then?

Nothing. How do you mean, nothing? I mean that, as the man said, anyone who says he understands the situation there shows thereby that he doesn't understand the situation.

So, to have a view on Northern Ireland is a waste of time? To try to have a view on Northern Ireland is the first sign of insanity. It's like having a view on the afterlife, or on the future of the game of marbles. Unthinkable and, in the long run, unknowable, and, in the even longer run, unimportant. Unless you live there.

Ah, well, that's the fallacy of the whole thing! We are always told by people from Northern Ireland that unless you know the place and the people and the history and the geography, you can't understand what it's about. This means that the only people who know what it's all about are the ones living there. And they're the ones who are causing all the trouble in the first place! So, as the man said, it's the so-called experts

who are causing all the trouble! Maybe we should call in the non-experts. Get some advisers who don't know that the situation is impossible and get them to sort it out!

It's been tried. They got in some total amateurs to sort it out? Yes. Who? Mr Major and the British Government.

Isn't that a bit gratuitously insulting? No. Mr Major keeps referring to something called the "peace process". Everyone in Northern Ireland knows that there is no such thing as the peace process, so they don't believe anything else he says. So what's the answer?

That depends. What's the question? The question is: How do we get peace in Northern Ireland? You don't. Never? Not unless you do the unthinkable. Meaning? Send the Protestants back where they came from. Meaning?



Miles Kington

Well, the reason there are Protestants in Northern Ireland at all is because, as the man says, Ulster was once upon a time the most Catholic and most troubled of all parts of Ireland, and when the Tudors were trying to sort the place out, they thought it would keep the Catholics in their place if they brought a load of Scottish Protestants over the water and put them in charge. Or at least give them all the best land and jobs. Well, after 400 years it hasn't really worked out. So why not send them all back to Scotland? You can't just uproot a whole population! Oh yes, you can. That's how they got to Ulster in the first

place, by uprooting. Anyway, the British built their Empire by uprooting people. Indians to Trinidad. Africans to the Caribbean...

Yes, but if you sent them all back to Scotland, you might not have a Northern Ireland problem any more, but you would have a big South-west Scotland problem.

Well, wouldn't that be better than a Northern Ireland problem? And you would have people in South-west Scotland marching through Dumfries in silly hats playing fife and drum music looking like idiots.

People in Scotland are used to that. They would think it was either the Edinburgh Fringe parade or people practising for the Edinburgh Tattoo.

And that is your solution to the Northern Ireland situation? Oh, no. There is no such thing as a solution to the Northern Ireland situation. As the man says, when you have got a right and wrong situation, like apartheid, you can do something about it, but when it's a right against right situation, war is the only solution.

Which man is this that you keep quoting?

The man on the radio. The wise man you keep hearing on discussion programmes and news reports, saying, "If you think you understand the situation, you don't", and "What we have here is a conflict between myths", and "Whatever else we've got in Northern Ireland, it's a very bad advertisement for Christianity", and "It's a political problem, so there has to be a political solution," and sounding very wise the whole time.

Who is he? Just a man. Do you think he could come up with a solution to the problem? Do you think HE is the only man who could clear it all up?

No. Even if he was, he wouldn't want to give up his job. What job? Being the man on radio who knows about Northern Ireland.

To be continued, but not in this space...

CP 110150

All change for our urban way of travel

Don't despair of disruption on Tubes and trains: modern cities may not need them

Underground trains are, if you think about it, one of the most ludicrous, wasteful inventions of the modern world. They are the most expensive single investment that a city makes. Yet they are used at full capacity for only two one-and-a-half hour periods out of the 24. They require subsidies to build them – (usually) subsidies to run them – in other words, money has to be taken by force from people who do not use the system and given to people who do. Yet the users do not particularly enjoy spending this money, for Tube travel does not seem a particularly uplifting experience. Yet, as Londoners discovered courtesy of yesterday's strike, it is difficult to operate a large city without the Tube.

But wait. If something is inherently irrational – and putting people into crowded, swaying steel containers underground for quite long periods is at best a sub-optimal solution to urban transport – then something will come along that changes it. This could be a technical fix, just as the first underground trains under the Marylebone Road fixed the problem of extreme congestion above ground. Or it could be a functional fix so that we do not need to travel around so much.

There is no obvious technical fix on the horizon. We can all envisage an urban Disneyland where people are whisked around by a variety of cable-cars, chair-lifts and "eggs", rather like a ski-resort, and of course it would be much more fun to go to work in an egg than in a tube. The trouble is that no other technology yet invented can match the combination of capacity and speed of an urban rail network. And none can be installed with as little evident damage to the fabric of the city as an underground one.

If it is not going to be a technical fix, it has to be a functional one. Mercifully, there are at least four reasons to believe that, while we will still be using Tube trains, a generation from now (and even using some of today's rolling stock), we will not subject people to the sort of discomfort, overcrowding and pressures that we do now. The rush hour will be a distant memory.

Change one is the substituting of telecommunications for physical travel. Take with a pinch of salt the utopian visions of us all sitting at home, pecking away at our computers and having virtual coffee breaks over video phones with distant colleagues. Offices and factories will still exist and



HAMISH MCRAE

people will still travel to work at them. But some of us will be able to spend some of our time away from our regular workplace. The advent of telecommunications will liberate many of us from regular commuting. We will still travel to work, but we will not be condemned to travel during those one-and-a-half hour windows.

Change two is the coming change in job structure: not whether we do jobs at home or in the office, but what those jobs will be. We have already seen a rapid run-down in manufacturing in all large cities in the developed world: now we are likely to see a similar run-down in employment by large-scale service employers like banks and insurance groups. The technological revolution that substituted capital for labour in the factory is starting to do

the same in the office. Instead the new jobs will appear in more personal services, areas like entertainment or care for older people. The key differences are that these new jobs are by their nature not nine-to-five, are not necessarily concentrated in a downtown central business district, and are in small workplaces rather than large ones. All these changes reduce pressure on the urban transport system.

Change three is a transformation in where some people want to live. Many are moving back into city centres, often taking up space vacated by the run-down in commercial activity, and helping to supply a market for the new entertainment services being developed. Victorian warehouses make ideal living space. As a result London's population is rising after decades of decline and the fastest growth is in areas such as Clerkenwell, slap bang in the centre, between the City and the West End. No need for a Tube: you can walk to work.

Finally, we can just glimpse a trend in giant cities of a movement to develop multi-centres. The easiest way to explain this is to look at the world's largest urban agglomeration, Tokyo. You can make Tokyo work, just, by spending vast amounts on urban trans-

port, putting people in tiny houses and making them commute for a couple of hours each way. But how much better if you could split the city into four or five zones, each with a business centre, but more important, each with all the cultural and social excitement of what would still be a giant city of five or more million people. Then you could cut commuting times by a half or more. This strategy is being seriously considered by Tokyo's planners.

Now apply the same thought to London. How can the city develop into a multi-centred region, with strong "centres" on the fringe? It is already becoming a three-centred area, with a central business district in the West End, the City and Docklands. Take that thought further. Croydon and Ham-mersmith could become new cultural magnets as well as office centres. If Slough were in America, it would be called itself the world's next great city.

In Dickens's time, city-dwellers walked to the theatre; they walked to work. Then came the urban train. More than a century on, we are feeling our way back to a society in which we will not rely so heavily on this Victorian invention.

The fine art of networking

The Arts Council is in danger of being seen as a club for croneys, argues David Lister

Cultural patronage is a concept that has never been easily assimilated into British society. Our most effective patrons have been rich individuals and families. From Sir Henry Tate to the Sainsburys, their bricks and mortar benefactions are patently visible.

But, in stark contrast to America, the British arts establishment has, since the birth of the Arts Council at the end of the Second World War, favoured public patronage of the arts. From the Royal Ballet, Royal Opera and other national companies to the smallest nomadic touring outfits, the public purse through the self-perpetuating cultural elite on the Arts Council's committees and panels has decided which art and artists shall prosper.

Some of the implications of this have been commented on over the years. As the cultural historian Robert Hewison puts it in his latest book, *Culture And Consensus*, "Bureaucracies such as the Arts Council... appear unaccountable to anyone, protected as they are by the pretence that they are at arm's length both from government and from the constituency of artists whose interests they are supposed to serve. This is one of the reasons why the public culture has become strangely bloodless and rootless."

But I have another worry, which is potentially more disturbing than the debate over whether our culture is bloodless and rootless. It is whether it is beginning to smack of croneism. The National Lottery, adding a staggering £351m to the Arts Council's normal spending of £186m, means that it now has a financial power that places it among the most powerful cultural patrons in history.

Yet so far, while putting lottery applications through the most rigorous scrutiny, it has not always been subject to the same rigorous spotlight being turned upon its own methods of doling out cultural patronage.

They don't always inspire confidence. The council is currently considering the South Bank Centre's redevelopment, at £127m the largest lottery application of all. If the full scheme goes ahead, as is likely, it will be a massive contract for the architect employed by the South Bank Centre, Sir Richard Rogers. Sir Richard is a brilliant and visionary architect. But he is also vice chairman of the Arts Council, the body that will award the money.

Sir Richard's talents are badly needed in such organisations, and the council is at pains to point out that he has not been and will not be involved in any decision concerning this project. He leaves the room when the matter is debated. But perceptions are important – not least the need for openness and accountability. It cannot be right for an architect, however distinguished, to



Darcey Russell, of the Royal Ballet, as Sacred Love in Frederick Ashton's *Les Illuminations*. If the Arts Council wants to obtain substantial funding for future projects, it must make sure it can bear public scrutiny. Photograph: Laurie Lewis

remain vice chairman of a body that could be awarding him a multi-million pound contract. If this was happening in business or politics, the artistic community would be the first to satirise it. One can almost imagine the late night Edinburgh Festival revues lampooning such an apparent conflict of interest.

Then there is the case of Peter Gummer. Peter, brother of John Selwyn, the Tory Cabinet minister, chaired the Arts Council's lottery

advisory panel. This same panel successfully recommended that the council give the Royal Opera House £78m of lottery money. Mr Gummer has now been appointed chairman of the Royal Opera House. Again there is absolutely nothing in the rules of quangos that prohibits such an appointment. But the perception – not least among small and struggling arts companies that have failed to get lottery cash – of the man who recommended a £78m windfall for an institution

then going off to chair that institution is not an entirely reassuring one.

But conflict of interest is a phrase that is met with blank looks at the Arts Council. It can see nothing remotely eyebrow-raising that one in seven of the 132 people serving on its own specialist advisory panels is involved in preparing lottery bids for their own organisations, not that these self-same panels have regularly awarded grants to their own members. Like Sir Richard these people leave the room when they are being discussed. The corridors must be seething.

The Arts Council claims it has "a specific ethical code to avoid conflicts of interest". But the possible perception of the arts establishment looking after its own is a danger. If a committee of doctors dispensed lottery money to a hospital and then one of those doctors went off to run that hospital I dare say it would be commented upon.

But last week lottery thinking took an even odder twist. Perhaps those of a tender disposition should read no further.

Professor Andrew Motion, the poet and biographer, told this newspaper he favoured money from the national lottery going to fund the creation of writers' "safe" houses in which professional writers could go for a week or two to work away from "yowling families".

It is a distressing thought, these poets and novelists distracted from their musings by real life spouses nagging, adolescents arguing and toddlers crying. Let us hope that these writers' safe houses are not located too deep in the countryside lest the twittering of birdsong prove as disturbing to the muse as the yowling family.

Those who travel in to offices on crowded, delayed trains and work in stressful redundancy-threatened environments may yearn for the odd day at home with the yowling family and dismiss Professor Motion's plea for lottery money for writers as an irrelevance.

But it is highly relevant. For Professor Motion now chairs the Arts Council's literature panel and he is a highly influential voice. He is a cultural patron.

Along with many others I campaigned for the arts to be beneficiaries of a National Lottery long before the lottery became a reality in Britain. The arts have already benefited greatly. But the honeymoon could soon be over. Jack Cunningham, Labour's heritage spokesman, has indicated that a Labour government might want to channel lottery money in different directions. He told *The Stage* newspaper: "By the end of the century the arts will have had £1.5bn. It is envisaged that it continues receiving the £250m every year it currently gets."

Our cultural patron will have to prepare to fight its corner. It can do so only if its own procedures can bear public scrutiny.

BOOK REVIEW

When the Music Stops

Norman Lebrecht

Simon & Schuster, £16.99

Tenors, dollars and doom

Classical music, it seems, is in a bad way. Stars are paid too much, record companies are too big, ticket sales have "tumbled", record revenues have "shrivelled", agents are greedy, managers are greedy, standards of performances are down. And this – mark, Norman Lebrecht's words – is only the bit we can see. The corporate murder of "classical" music – as his subtitle has it – is only half the story. The classical music business "condones child sex", the author hisses. It practises the "corruption of youth and truth". He would like to tell us about "the money, the lies, the illegal sex".

As it turns out, he doesn't tell us too much about the latter, preferring to dwell on the business angle instead. The allegation of wholesale, apocalyptic moral corruption, however, needs considering. It comes down, apparently, to the fact that "a certain top conductor has a compulsion for sex with under-age boys", something "widely known" in the business. The conductor has been arrested in the past, but his agent and others within the "upper echelons of classical music" have covered up for him. Such behaviour would be tolerated in no other sector of the entertainment industry, claims Lebrecht: even Hollywood "retched" when Michael Jackson was accused of child molesting.

It stands to reason, then, according to Lebrecht, that the entire music business must be guilty of moral corruption. If one covers up, they all cover up. A similar logic operates through the book, referring particular instances of corruption to a general culture of sin. An agent in America was a bit of a cad? Agents are cads. Karajan was a megalomaniac. There's a list of half a dozen more. Musicians and their associates are bad, no doubt, but are they really worse than the rest of us, as Lebrecht appears to believe?

Might he not find a similar share of perversion, cover-up and conspiracy in the chemicals business, the publishing business, the garden centre business?

If his logic is dubious, Lebrecht's description of the state of musical affairs, his tenacious noting of boardroom shuffles and record industry

statistics is hard to argue with. Even for those who disdain such things, his figures make riveting reading. PT Barnum, the "Greatest showman on Earth" offered Liszt half a million dollars to play an American tour back in the 1850s and the scope for musical venality has been on the increase ever since: when Liszt refused, Barnum signed up the soprano Jenny Lind instead, without even hearing her. How far from this to the star culture of today? Pavarotti earned \$15m in 1993, 4 million more than Nigel Mansell (sporting comparisons are a thing with this author). The Big Three have a lot to answer for altogether: their Three Tenors concert in 1990, according to Lebrecht, was "the day the music died".

Even before them, Lebrecht's catalogue of artistic greed is gleeful, however: Herbert von Karajan's domination of the Salzburg festival so that only his artists, his record companies, got the bookings; the operation of agency monopolies in America, the domination of record companies by multinational conglomerates. Post-Three Tenors, fee inflation was inevitable and was, it seems, the last straw. Without Luciano, Joe and Placido fees would not have gone through the roof. Domingo wouldn't have broken his contract with Covent Garden to sing with the others. Entire production budgets would not have been wasted on stars and rank-and-file musicians would not have suffered frozen pay. The manager of the Paris Opera would not have suggested his House had "no need for a music director".

"Music cried out for help," goes the author's final lament, "but the music business turned its back... and went all out to make money". Sadly, however, detailed and impassioned though it is, Lebrecht's hook is a missed opportunity. Why cry "woe" once calamity has struck? – as if music were an endangered nation – not a living, healthy art – will take Lebrecht nowhere. Nobody wants jobs lost and salaries cut. But blinded by tears, Lebrecht misses the potential for good lurking in the change, the chance that the current turn towards a cosmopolitan, flexible, small-scale, plurality of influence may be precisely the saviour music needs.

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Save my beloved Cuba from Miami's vices

The West must urge America to stop its destructive vendetta against this captivating island, says Jonathan Glancey

The United States is a bad loser. It lost the Vietnam war and then, imposing tough trade sanctions against its former enemy, cut its economic nose to spite its political face. Twenty years on, having failed to overthrow Gaddafi in Libya and the ayatollahs in Iran, Washington now seeks to punish these "pariah" regimes by issuing sanctions against foreign firms investing in them.

Imagine how mad Washington is now that countries, including Britain, have finally taken issue with the miserable Helms-Burton law that has caused so much hunger and despair for so many years in Cuba, just 90 miles south of Florida, that shining pearl of free-market culture.

In 1959, when Che Guevara marched his rebel army into Havana and paved the way for Fidel Castro's seizure of political power, Washington could have chosen to have made peace with this youthful and idealistic regime. Guevara might have been a committed international revolutionary, but

Castro was, above all, a nationalist. The Cuban Revolution moved radically to the left only after the attempted US invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs in 1961. Having lost, President Kennedy imposed trade sanctions against Cuba. Moscow stepped foxily into the breach, trading economic support for missile bases.

Since Kennedy and the withdrawal of Soviet aid to Cuba in 1989, seven more US presidents have tried to starve Castro's Cuba into submission. Our sympathies should lie with Cuba. It is hard to believe that decent Americans can stand by their government while five-year-old Cuban children are left to walk miles to school with no breakfast other than a glass of warm, sugared water. Photographs of British children wounded in the Blitz encouraged ordinary US citizens to support the war

against Hitler. Pictures of naked Vietnamese children being burned alive by napalm hastened the American disengagement from that war.

If I could take a representative sample of American families to say, the Camilo Cienfuegos ballet school in Havana to watch dedicated teachers and talented children pirouetting on splintered floors in threadbare pumps, I feel confident they would want to jump straight on board one of the planes they are barred from taking to Cuba, bringing all the help they could.

Cuba is remarkable in that it continues to try to live up to a First World way of life, even though food and fuel are severely rationed, average salaries are between \$7 and \$12 a month, transport is almost non-existent and desperate people flounder to Florida on illegal makeshift rafts. These things

are well known. And still it does not seem like a Third World country.

Because of the notably high standard of education and health care it developed with the help of the USSR, Cuba is sophisticated to a degree that takes the holidaymakers who come here to top up their tans in winter by surprise. Cuba is not a banana republic, nor some tin-pot Communist dictatorship.

Until Soviet aid fell away and the full brunt of the US trade embargo was felt, Cuba prospered. Here was an unlikely outpost of socialism, a stunning tropical island laced with some of the world's best beaches, music, ice-cream and cocktails, and among its chattiest people. All this, plus significant advances in medical science, education, sport, literature and architecture. It was a long way from the Cuba of Hemingway and Greene, that seedy, illiterate,

desperately poor tobacco plantation and casino run by the dictator Batista on behalf of Washington. Miami Cubans have plans for Havana that would turn the clocks back to the Fifties, to create one glittery strip of murderous and drug-riddled casinos. Locals will wait at tables and, as they are doing already to buy food, children will put out for overpaid, oversexed Yanks.

Of course there have been mistakes, over-reliance on the Soviet Union only the most obvious. Yet crime and human rights abuses in Cuba are small beer by US standards, and, despite its poverty, Cuba remains one of the world's safest countries; the police presence is notable by its absence.

The way to prevent Cuba's descent into Miami vice is for European countries to put pressure on Washington to drop sanctions, while investing in an island that will reward its new-found international friends with that seductive tropical mix of charm, beauty, art, social concern, and idealism that drew me to it, with open eyes, a long time ago.

obituaries / gazette

Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe

Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe was one of the century's greatest landscape architects. His contribution to landscape design – a discipline he credited above building design as the "Mother of all Arts" – has been described as equal to that of one of his great heroes, the 18th-century gardener Capability Brown.

Among Jellicoe's triumphs are the grounds of Royal Lodge at Windsor, Sandringham in Norfolk, Sutton Place near Guildford, public gardens at Hemel Hempstead and the Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede, together with many small private commissions. But exceeding them all in scale and complexity was his work on the Moody Historical Gardens in Galveston, Texas, which he started in 1935. It is a project due to commence on site in the next few years and which Jellicoe suspected he would never see completed. Yet, so powerful was his vision for the gardens that he felt no sadness at the prospect of not seeing their realisation – "In my mind I know the gardens. I've already walked through every inch of them."

The designs for the Moody Gardens provided a fitting tribute to, and culmination of, Jellicoe's 70-year-long career. They were conceived as a three-dimensional history of man starting with the Garden of Eden. When complete, they will embody his thoughts and ideas about landscape as a reflection of the civilisations which created them.

However, Jellicoe did not set out to be a landscape designer and, surprisingly, confessed to a hatred of gardening.

He was born in 1901, educated at Cheltenham College and then trained to be an architect at the Architectural Association. It was while at the AA that his interest in landscape was first kindled when he and a fellow

low AA student, J.C. Shepherd, toured Italy to study the country's famous gardens.

The trip had been made at the suggestion of a lecturer who told the students that nothing had been written on the subject of Italian gardens since the early 19th century and that the time was well overdue for a new appraisal. The result of the tour was Jellicoe's first book, co-written with Shepherd, entitled *The Italian Gardens of the Renaissance*. It was published in 1925, is now in its fifth edition, and is regarded as a standard.

On his return to England, Jellicoe chose not to pursue a career in landscape design, but instead set up an architectural practice. He did, however, in 1929, help found the Institute of Landscape Architects and then went on to set up the International Federation of Landscape Architects, of which he was an Honorary Life President.

Among his early pre-war work Jellicoe designed the crisp modernist Cavendish restaurant at Cheddar Gorge in Somerset and the Gordon Russell showrooms and factory in London. Shortly after the Second World War Jellicoe spent several years in Zambia working on schools, hospitals, airports and hotels and then in the Caribbean where he designed a Palladian-style, coral-built mansion in Barbados.

His post-war work in Britain included the Civic Centre and other municipal buildings in Plymouth, public housing and industrial buildings, a department store in Guildford and swimming baths in Cheltenham. He also qualified as a town planner and prepared plans for Guildford, Wellington and the centre of Gloucester, but most important was his Master Plan for Hemel Hempstead. Although not all his ideas were executed, he did see the inclusion of his



Jellicoe: "In my mind I know the gardens, I've walked every inch of them" Photograph: Stephen Parker

public gardens with their long, serpentine lake, which has remained a hugely popular oasis.

Throughout his career, Jellicoe was frequently asked to advise on gardens and landscaping. During the war he became one of the first landscape architects consulted by industry. His designs, drawn up in 1942, for the Earle's Cement Works in Derbyshire set an example for others to follow. It was here that

he demonstrated how a business with the potential to scar the landscape could be incorporated into rural areas and, indeed, create the opportunity for attractive, new landscape. But despite growing demand for his landscape design he resisted making it his full-time work because he feared it would not be financially viable.

However, with each new landscape commission Jellicoe became increasingly convinced that garden design was more complex and affecting than was generally accepted.

He had first noticed the impact landscape could make when visiting the Italian gardens – they appealed not just to his aesthetic sense but also to his spirit. He accepted that beauty was a potent force on its own, but felt that designers could add an extra dimension to reflect the

personality of the area and local people, or a garden and its owners, and somehow "plant" elements which were almost mystical. It was a difficult concept to explain but his theory was tested at Hemel Hempstead.

"Some years after the gardens there were complete I was contacted by the parks department saying they had wanted to change the shape of the lake and reclaim part of the gardens for a new fire station," Jellicoe told me. "It was extremely unusual for me to be both to contact me – I had left the project years before. But the council official explained that he and others in his department felt curiously uneasy about making the alterations and wanted to talk to me about them. The truth was that, unbeknown to them, I had designed the lake as a serpent which it was really only possible to see from the air. They wanted to chop a bit off the head and instinctively felt it to be wrong." Jellicoe explained his reservations and the building work was cancelled.

Shortly after this he discovered the writings of Jung and immediately many of his ideas were pulled into sharp focus. Of particular interest were Jung's thoughts on the workings of the conscious and subconscious – the material and the spiritual.

One of the clearest interpretations of Jung's ideas was at the Kennedy Memorial. Completed in 1965, the site close to the Thames river in Surrey was designed by Jellicoe as a place of pilgrimage and contemplation where visitors would travel on a path made of thousands of stone steps, each representing a pilgrim, to emerge at a light-filled clearing and the simple, carved memorial stone. Nearby was seating – two raised benches representing Kennedy and his wife

and smaller stones symbolising their children. The combination of symbols, hard and soft elements, light and shade, and the climb to a hilltop gave the place an aura and great sense of dignity.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s Jellicoe published several important books including the three-volume series *Studies in Landscape Design*. But among the most revered was *The Landscape of Man*, published in 1975, which was co-written with his wife, Susan. (Susan died in 1986.) Here Jellicoe expounded his ideas on the importance of landscape and its ability to reflect the civilisations which occupy it. It was this book which inspired the Moody Historical Gardens project.

The book appeared during Jellicoe's retirement from professional practice. He used his seventies to rest and travel, and in 1979 was knighted for his services to landscape design. The knighthood, however, sparked off a new phase in his career and resulted in a decade of prodigious output.

Aged 80 he was coaxed from retirement by his old friend Sir Hugh Casson to design gardens for Sutton Place, near Guildford. Such was their success that a flood of commissions arrived from around the world – public landscaping in Italy, private commissions in Britain and the Americas.

Jellicoe described the Moody Gardens as "the summary of my life's work". The 25 acres of gardens form a part of a massive 20-year scheme to revitalise 150 acres of sea marshes off the Texas coast near Houston. The \$50m gardens project is intended to be both commercial and educational – the plants and architecture will be as historically accurate as possible.

Visitors will pass through the scenery by boat or on foot

from the Garden of Eden with its enormous moss-covered apple and mysterious serpent, past an Egyptian garden, then a Roman one and so on through almost 5,000 years of history taking in 15 cultures from East and West. There will be neat, formal gardens, rolling romantic landscape, waterfalls, caves and monsters.

Following his first tour of the site Jellicoe produced, overnight, his original sketch for the gardens. This was then developed into a series of enormous, and beautiful drawings. Jellicoe had developed a distinctive style of design which was illustrative and colourful and was made on enormous sheets of paper the size of hearth-rugs.

Work on the Moody Gardens project was carried out in a small office at his home on a top floor in Highpoint. Until last year he eschewed any temptation to retire to the country and adored living in his modern apartment with its views out over the gardens, parks, schools and houses of Hemel Hempstead and Highgate. The choice of address, his taste for 20th-century art and his interests in Jung and the green movement were all indications of Geoffrey Jellicoe's progressive thinking. He always enjoyed exchanging ideas with young people and regularly gave lectures to students where his favourite opening line was: "If people try to tell you life begins at 40 don't believe them – it begins at 80."

Fay Sweet

Geoffrey Alan Jellicoe, architect and landscape designer; born London 8 October 1901; Principal, Architectural Association Schools 1939-41; President, Institute of Landscape Architects 1939-49; CBE 1961; Kt 1979; RA 1991; married 1936 Ursula Pares (died 1986); died Seaton, Devon 17 July 1996.

Sqn Ldr Hoof Proudfoot

Squadron Leader "Hoof" Proudfoot AFC RAF (Rtd), who was killed piloting a Lockheed P38 Lightning at an air show at Duxford on Sunday, was known as Michael except to his mother. He was an extraordinary man.

Racetrack par excellence, capable of holding a group doubled in mirth for the entire weekend, Proudfoot could easily have earned his living as a stand-up comic of the old music hall. Instead, he enlisted in 1938 as a "Halton Brae" RAF apprentice technician. After completing his three-year electronics course, by force of character, he somehow made the extremely rare conversion from fitter to fighter pilot.

Having gained his wings with great distinction, he flew Hunters with 20 Squadron in the Far East and in 1970 was accepted for the introductory courses of the then revolutionary vertical take-off Harrier. This incredible aircraft became his speciality. Proudfoot was awarded the coveted Air Force Cross, for exceptional airmanship in recovering a Harrier at night with a major electrical failure. Due to his expertise he was chosen for an exchange tour with the US Marine Corps, who had just purchased the British jump-jet. His three years at Cherry Point, North Carolina, gave him a great rapport with American flyers and an inexhaustible fund of rib-cracking stories.



Proudfoot: imphish Photograph: J. Dibbs

By his early thirties, Hoof Proudfoot was already a Squadron Leader, with command of a tactical weapons unit before being promoted to a staff job at RAF Strike Command. Flying a desk, even for a short period, was "prison" for him and he resigned his commission in 1979, to make a career as an airline pilot with Britannia. He rapidly became a dedicated and careful captain of Boeing 737 and 767.

An irrepressible fighter pilot, he found his way into volunteer leisure flying of historic aircraft with the Fighter Collection at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Yet again, by force of talent, application, natural leadership and personality, he rose to Chief Pilot. Whether flying his 60hp Cub, or 3,000hp high performance Second

World War fighters and bombers, he displayed the same respect for the machinery and the maintenance and restoration engineers involved; always the same cautious, systematic and reverent approach to flying and displaying these exotic aircraft.

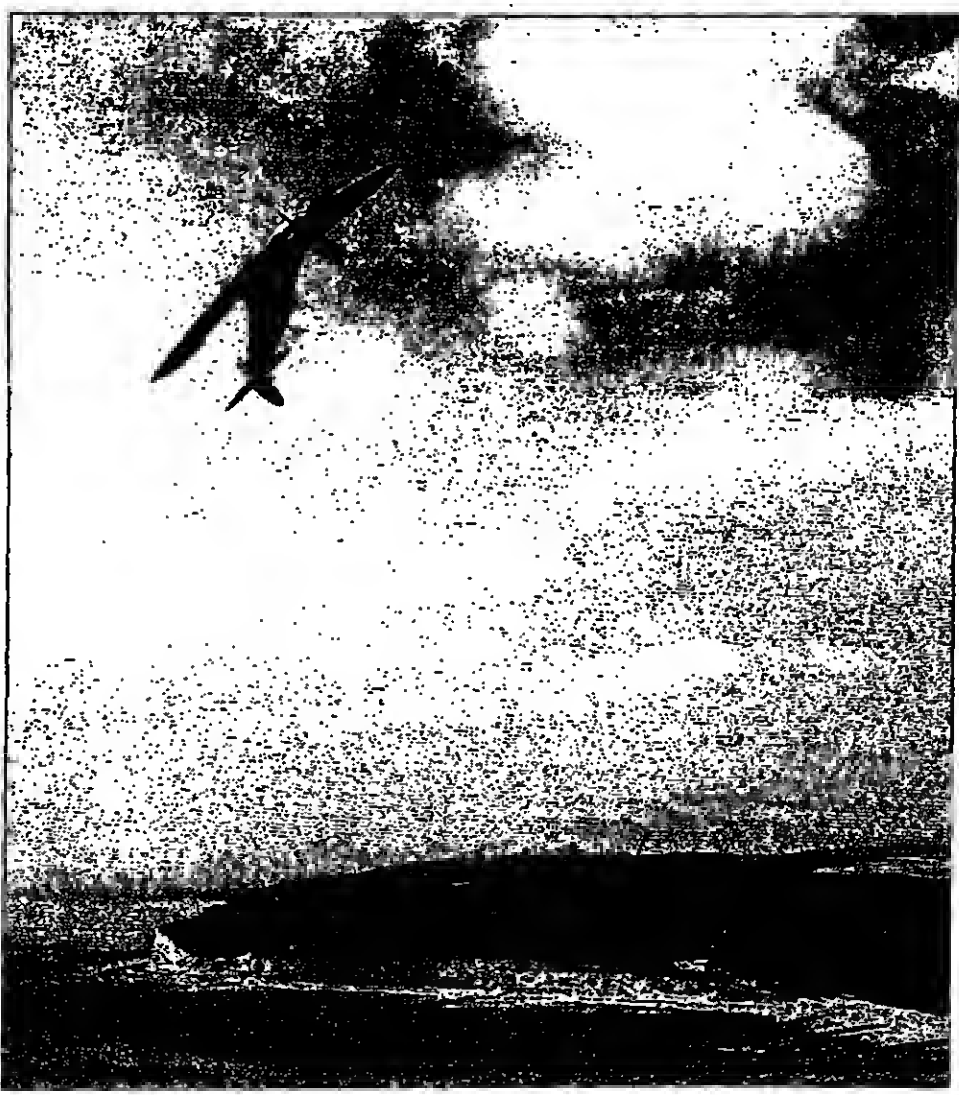
His humility did nothing to mask his genius or method in flight. He was a model, generous to a fault with his experience and time, prepared to teach or advise, yet prepared to enquire or to learn.

He married at a very young age. His wife Sue watched him infuse and finally share his enthusiasm for aviation and zest for life with their two sons, Lee and Ian – both now professional pilots.

Hoof Proudfoot was an impish but naturally courteous man who leaves bright memories – always winning the raw egg eating contests; grinning from ear to ear whilst bombing from a Second World War Mustang fighter in Steven Spielberg's *Empire of the Sun*; buying flowers for his 89-year-old mother.

Stephen Grey

Michael Bryan Proudfoot, pilot; born Norwich 22 September 1941; AFC 1974; married 1963 Susan Lavender (two sons); died Duxford, Cambridgeshire 14 July 1996.



This photograph, left, was shot on a sun-drenched June afternoon in 1988, writes Herbie Knott. LWT's camera crew and I made our way to a headland overlooking Cuckmere Haven, and sat in the long grass, under blue skies.

Hoof Proudfoot, flying a Mk I Spitfire, and Nick Grace, chasing him in a Messerschmitt 109, rounded South Hill on the far side of the bay. Gradually, the stillness of our cliff-top position was invaded by the beat of the aircraft engines. The noise grew louder, then vanished, as the aircraft disappeared beneath the high cliffs.

For a couple of seconds you could hear the sea, the breeze, the birds, then... GRRR-BROOOOOWWWW! Hoof flashed almost vertically upwards, yards from the cliff-edge, spiralling into a perfect victory roll, his Merlin engine snarling and grinding with the strain of being pushed near the limit. A little cough in the beat (Merlins were never good upside-down) and he was gone. Nick followed, then silence. Just the distant sound of the sea, and the breeze.

We repeated the exercise two or three times. The Spitfire's visual explosion from invisibility to victory roll was so sudden that none of us knew that we had really captured the moment until we saw the evidence on film, and on transparency. Between

times, we sat, waited, and enjoyed the delight of working on a perfect day, sitting in the long, brown grass of summer, enjoying one of the world's most blissful shooting locations.

Both Nick and Hoof are now dead. Nick in a car crash, Hoof in his P38 Lightning, at Duxford. They both, were quiet, witty, unassuming people. They were never household names. But well over 250,000 people a year turned out to watch them fly, and around 10 million television viewers sat in their armchairs viewing *Piece of Cake*, the LWT drama series, thrilling to their flying, without ever knowing their names.

Hoof's day job was mundane. On our second or third meeting, he described it as "flying farting tourists to Geneva and back". He was a senior captain with Britannia Airways.

At some point in his life, with a riotous bunch of drunken skiers in the cabin, he must have fantasised about the joy of flipping his 737 into a victory roll, just to shut them up, and take the pressure off his cabin crew.

Fortunately for them, he didn't. Fortunately for the four or five of us who were there to witness it, he saved his best flying for that blissful day at Friston, East Sussex. Seen, remembered, never to be forgotten.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

JOHN: David Richard, died peacefully on 15 July, Consultant Surgeon (retired) at Hillingdon, Mount Vernon and Hatfield Hospitals, beloved husband of Mary, father of Elizabeth, Nicholas and Kathryn and brother of Diana. Private cremation, service of celebration of David's life at St Andrew's Church, Westfield Park, Hatfield, Herts, on Friday 23 August at 12 noon. No flowers please.

PROUDFOOT: Michael Bryan (Hoof), originally at Duxford Airfield on 14 July 1996, aged 54 years. Funeral service 1pm Tuesday 23 July at St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Houghton. Family flowers only please, but donations if desired to the Battle of Britain Memorial Trust, c/o Surman & Horwood Funeral Service, 25 High Street, Princes Risborough HP27 1AE.

IN MEMORIAM

JOHNSON: Peter. On 19 July 1994, loved you then, now, and forever. We're here.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorials) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Telephone 0171-293 2811 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (marriages, funerals, birth announcements, etc.) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone number.

Birthdays

Sir Robin Auld, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 59; Mr David Rowe, MBE 41; Sir Norman Brain, former diplomat, 59; Sir Henry Brooke, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 60; Mr Cameron Cochrane, former Principal, British International School, Cairo, 63; Sir Andrew Collins, High Court judge, 54; Viscount Colville of Culross QC, circuit judge, 63; Mr Nicholas Dandridge, 61; Professor Roy Duxbury, former Dean, London Hospital Medical School, 67; Baroness Elles, former Vice-President, European Parliament, 75; Miss Evelyn Glennie, percussionist, 51; Sir Anthony Graham, chairman, BMA Services, 66; Mr George Hamilton IV, country singer, 59; Maj Gen Donald Isles, former Director General, Weapons, 72; Dr Carol Jordan, astronomer, 55; Sir Herbert Laming, chief inspector, Social Services Inspectorate, 60; Dr Mary McGowan, nephrologist, 73; Sir David Money-Coutts, chairman, M & G Group, 65; Mr Dominic Muldowney, composer and music director, National Theatre, 44; Mr Ilic Nastase, tennis player, 50; Mr Adrian Noble, artistic director, Royal Shakespeare Company, 46; Sir Frederick O'Brien QC, former Sheriff Principal, Lothian and Borders, 79; Air Chief Marshal Sir David Parry-Evans, Chief Commander, St John Ambulance, 61; Mr Ivor Roberts, actor, 71; Sir Lawrence Verney, Recorder of London, 72; Professor Adrian Webb, Vice-Chancellor, Glamorgan University, 53; Mr Henry Wendt, former chairman, Smith-Kline Beecham, 63.

Anniversaries

Birch: Samuel Cook, inventor of the revolver, 1814; Hilaire Germaine

Edgar Degas, painter, 1834; Charles Horace Mayo, co-founder of the Mayo Clinic, 1859; Dr Archibald Joseph Cronin, novelist, 1896; Herbert Marcuse, political theorist, 1898; Deane: Matthew Flinders, explorer of Australia, 1814; Thomas Cook, travel agent, 1825. On this day, the Mary Rose sank in the Solent with the loss of 700 lives, 1545; the Spanish Armada was sighted off the coast of England, 1588; Queen Caroline was forcibly prevented from appearing at the Coronation of King George IV, 1821. Today is the Feast Day of St Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, St John the Evangelist, St James of Nisibis, St John Plessington, Saints Justa and Rufina, St Macrina the Younger, St Symmachus, Pope.

Lectures

National Gallery: Alexander Sturgis, "Artists as Collectors (ii): Rembrandt as a Collector", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Jean Schofield, "The Decoration of Floors and Walls II", 2.30pm.

Dinners

HM Government: The Hon Nicholas Soames MP, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, was the host of a dinner given by HM Government yesterday evening in honour of the Export Guarantees Advisory Council.

State Opening of Parliament

Parliament will be opened by the Queen at 11.30am on Wednesday 23 October 1996. Peers who will be present at the ceremony may apply for a place in the Chamber for their Peers or husband, and for their eldest son or daughter above 14 years of age. A limited number of seats in the Royal Gallery will be available for guests of members of both Houses of Parliament. Members of the House of Commons should apply for these seats to the Speaker's Secretary, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA. Applications from Peers using the forms issued to those eligible should be sent to the Secretary to the Lord Great Chamberlain, House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW, by Friday 27 September 1996.

Synagogue services

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 8.53pm.

United Synagogue 0171-387 0008. Federation of Synagogues 0171-387 2265. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues 0171-986 0464. Reform Synagogue of Great Britain 011-249 4721. Synagogue and Pargament Jew Community 0171-287 2873. New London Synagogue 0171-222 1876.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, opened the new Andrew & Co. Office Programme in a new building, 100, York Road, Bristol, today. The Queen visits Andover Assisted Study and The Duke of Edinburgh opens the new Engineering Faculty Building, Brunel University, Uxbridge, today. The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend the 14th European and Mediterranean Regional Conference in Madrid, today. The Duke of Gloucester, accompanied by The Duchess of Gloucester, visits the Royal Naval School of Maritime Studies in Portsmouth, today.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment escorts the Queen's Life Guard to Horse Guards, 11am, for the Changing of the Guard. The Queen's Guard, 11am, for the Changing of the Guard. The Queen's Guard, 11am, for the Changing of the Guard.

Time bar not extended for late libel claim

C v Mirror Group Newspapers

and others; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Mummery, Lord Justice Pill) 21 June 1996

LAW REPORT

19 July 1996

For the purpose of section 32A of the Limitation Act 1980, which enabled a libel action to be brought out of time where the plaintiff had been unaware till then of "facts relevant to the cause of action", the relevant facts were those establishing the existence of a cause of action, not the absence of a possible defence thereto.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the plaintiff, who may not be named, against that part of a decision of Sir Michael Davies, sitting as a High Court judge on 20 March 1995, by which he struck out, as having been brought out of time, her libel claim against the four defendants, Mirror Group Newspapers, South West Wales Newspapers Ltd, Western Mail & Echo Ltd and South Wales Evening Post. But the court allowed the plaintiff's appeal against that part of the judge's order whereby he had also struck out her claim in malicious falsehood.

The plaintiff in person, Patrick Moloney (Davenport Lyons) for the first defendant; Thomas Shields QC and Jane Phillips (Osborne Hickson) for the other defendants.

Collier & Co. and Sharpe Pritchard for Lord Justice Neill, Lord Justice Mummery, Lord Justice Pill) 21 June 1996

Lord Justice Neill said the plaintiff was divorced in 1984. She was given custody of her two children and took them on holiday to Tenerife, but then did not bring them back to England. On the father's application they were made wards of court and an order was made requiring their return to England.

On hearing that they were now in Australia, the father made an application which came before Judge Michael Evans QC, sitting as a High Court judge in Swansea, who on 21 March 1988 adjourned the hearing into open court and lifted reporting restrictions to enlist the help of the media in locating the children.

After the hearing the father spoke to the press, making serious and defamatory allegations against the plaintiff, in particular that she was connected with a drugs gang. This was completely untrue and was

later withdrawn. Unfortunately, the allegations were published in a number of newspapers. The report in the *Daily Mirror* on 22 March 1988 did not make clear that the words were spoken outside court rather than during the hearing. The other newspaper reports made this clear.

The plaintiff received a copy of the *Daily Mirror* article in Australia and telephoned the newspaper in England to complain about it. She was told that the newspaper was just repeating what her husband had said in court.

On 25 August 1993, Judge Michael Evans wrote to the plaintiff stating that to the best of his recollection the father had, on 21 March 1988, said nothing in court about drug smuggling nor that the plaintiff was a drug smuggler. The plaintiff issued writs on 21 March 1994, well outside the normal three-year limitation period in defamation but just within the six-year period for malicious falsehood.

The plaintiff relied on section 32A to defeat the limitation defence to her libel claim, saying that it was only upon re-

ceipt of Judge Evans's letter in August 1993 that she realised that her involvement in drug smuggling had not been mentioned in court on 21 March 1988, and therefore that the newspaper reports had not been privileged as accounts of court proceedings. Her writ was issued within a year thereafter.

In *Johnson v Chief Constable of Surrey* [1992] CA Transcript 961, the Court of Appeal held that the words "any fact relevant to the plaintiff's right of action" in section 31(1)(b) of the 1980 Act meant facts which should be pleaded in a statement of claim.

That also applied to the relevant expression in section 32A. The relevant facts were those which the plaintiff had to prove to establish a *prima facie* case. That being so, the fact alleged to have become known to the plaintiff only in August 1993, that drug smuggling had not been mentioned in court, was not a relevant fact within the meaning of section 32A.

It was relevant only to the possible existence of a defence under the Law of Libel Amendment Act 1988 which conferred a privilege upon fair and accurate newspaper reports of public court proceedings.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

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DEPUTY BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: MICHAEL HARRISON

business

THE INDEPENDENT • Friday 19 July 1996

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2638 fax 0171-293 2098

Watchdog sets BT final deadline on curbs

MICHAEL HARRISON
and CHRIS GODSMARK

The telecommunications watchdog Ofcom last night told BT that unless it agreed to a package of new price controls and curbs on anti-competitive behaviour within the next fortnight, it will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Don Cruickshank, the director general of Ofcom, delivered his final proposals to the company with a blunt statement that they were "indivisi-

bly linked" and that BT could not accept one without the other.

If BT has not responded to Ofcom by 2 August, it will be taken to have rejected the proposals and will be sent to the MMC, said Mr Cruickshank.

The proposals are the same as those set out by Ofcom in June and would limit increases in charges to most of BT's residential customers to inflation less 4.5 percentage points for four years from next July. They would also allow Mr Cruickshank to introduce a fair trad-

ing condition into BT's licence to prohibit anti-competitive behaviour.

The regulator's uncompromising stance came after pleas from an army of private shareholders at BT's annual meeting yesterday urging the company to stand firm against Ofcom.

BT will consider the proposals at a crunch board meeting next Tuesday although it will have 10 days after that to decide whether or not to accept. At the company's 12th annual general meeting in New-

castle, one of the "Sids" summed up the general mood. Margaret Hubbard from south London wanted reassurance that BT would not give up its campaign to gain a right of appeal.

"If we fail we might as well just roll over and play dead," she said.

But BT's chairman, Sir Iain Vallance kept shareholders guessing as to what the board would decide at Tuesday's crucial meeting, one of the most important since the company was privatised in 1984.

"Ofcom, BT and the rest of the industry agree that a legislative solution which could resolve these difficulties, would be preferable. And we hope that this can be achieved," Sir Iain said.

Sir Iain may have moderated his language in recent months since describing Mr Cruickshank's plans at "highly dangerous" late last year but the two sides remain as far apart as ever on the fundamental question of a formal right of appeal.

Many shareholders blamed

Ofcom for the uncertainty which has plagued the share price.

Dorothy and Roy Hodgson from York - retired BT employees with 77 years' combined service and shareholders since privatisation - said: "It's gone on long enough. It's time Ofcom hacked off a bit. Don Cruickshank is too tough."

Munching a cheese sandwich before the start of the meeting, Mr Hodgson said: "It's a British firm and we should be supporting it. It's not as if there isn't plenty of competition around."

BT's shares stood at 359.5p last night, not far above the 335p price of the second BT share offer in December 1991 and way below the 410p price of BT two and a half years ago. Interest in the annual general meeting has dwindled with the share price itself. Only 657 small investors attended, most of them retired, yesterday at the Newcastle Arena - a fraction of the 2,000 who used to attend previous gatherings.

But the board did face tough questioning yesterday over the £686.600 "pay-off" to the for-

mer managing director, Michael Hopper. Mr Hopper left the company at the end of last year but under the terms of his contract continues to receive a salary until August 1997. He also received benefits including a chauffeur and private health care worth £57,700.

Asked about the "pay-off", Sir Iain was more tight-lipped. "It made sense" for Mr Hopper to leave early, he said, the salary was "entirely consistent with the recommendations of the Greenbury Committee."

Comment, page 21

Boardroom bust-up: Non-executives revolt against decision to oust directors without shareholder approval

Emap wins vote against dissidents

PATRICK TOOHER

Controversial proposals to make it easier for media group Emap to sack directors without shareholder approval were narrowly approved yesterday amid an unprecedented public revolt by two disaffected non-executives.

Kenneth Simmonds, a London Business School academic, and Joe Cooke, vice-chairman of the Telegraph newspaper group, told Emap's annual meeting that the resolutions were against shareholders' interests and represented "a retrograde step" in corporate governance.

But the resolutions, to cut the minimum number of non-executives required on the board from five to three and to allow a 75 per cent board majority to remove directors without having to go to investors, were eventually carried by 82 per cent of votes cast at the meeting. A 75 per cent majority was needed.

A full count was necessary after a show of hands initially blocked the changes. All told, votes speaking for only a third of Emap's equity voted in favour of the proposals.

Apart from the two dissident non-executives, former Emap chairman Sir Frank Rogers also opposed the changes. They were joined by Anne Simpson of Pirc, the corporate governance consultancy, who said some of the institutional in-

vestors holding up to 12 per cent of Emap that she advised would also vote against the motion.

Mr Simmonds, a professor of marketing and international business at LBS, said the proposals meant non-executive directors could be removed without reference to shareholders. "Replacements would almost certainly be of the same mind-set as the board," he said. "This gives less protection to shareholders should an entrenched board fail to perform."

At present all of Emap's directors have to vote in favour of removing a non-executive from the board.

Emap, which currently has a 13-man board, seven of whom are non-executives, was clearly embarrassed by the very public and personal nature of the debate, but it denied there would be any recriminations after the vote. "Non-executives are not about to be fired," a spokesman said.

Emap had already assured the Association of British Insurers that the changes amounted to nothing more than bringing Emap into line with best practice.

Sir John Hoskyns, Emap's non-executive chairman, told shareholders the changes to articles of association regarding non-executive board members brought the company into line with other large UK companies, including Barclays, Lloyds



A revolution at Emap: (clockwise from left to right) Sir John Hoskyns, chairman, Robin Miller, group chief executive, David Arculus, managing director, and Joe Cooke, a non-executive director and one of two rebels

Bank, Granada, Marks & Spencer and the Prudential.

"If your company is wrong about these proposals then so are the others," he claimed. "The quality of non-executive directors is more important than their quantity."

However, Pirc's Ms Simpson rejected Sir John's arguments

about corporate governance: "Common practice does not mean best practice," she argued.

The changes to Emap's articles were drawn up by Sir John, who also chairs the Burton retail group, and chief executive Robin Miller.

But Professor Simmonds claimed investors had been

kept in the dark. "Shareholders have not had a good clear picture of what is involved. There was no canvassing of opinions, the board rejected a minority letter being sent out and our objections were only included when it was pointed out that otherwise the chairman's statement would be misleading."

Sir John denied he was involved in what he caricatured as "a sinister plot to sack half the board and install a new chairman."

He added: "We have got to be careful in this politically correct field of corporate governance."

Comment, page 21

Record level of complaints at British Gas

JOHN WILLCOCK

Complaints to the Gas Consumers Council about British Gas rose by 39 per cent to a record 25,133 for the half year to June, almost three times the level in the same period of 1993.

The ever-increasing tide of complaints has prompted British Gas Trading to start new talks with the Consumers Council in order to provide "better service to people whom British Gas serves and the Council represents".

The rate of change in complaints about BGT rose from plus 11 per cent in January 1996 to plus 127 per cent in May 1996. This slowed in June to plus 101 per cent, but still represents more than double the June 1995 figure.

In a joint statement yesterday the Council and BGT said the aim was to enable British Gas "more accurately to diagnose the cause of complaints and to find solutions".

The unprecedented number of complaints were also causing bottlenecks for the Gas Consumer Council, and in BGT's own complaints procedure.

In response, the Council was forced to cut public access to its 11 regional offices by 40 per cent during June 1996. It did this, by disconnecting phone lines for switchboards, to enable staff to catch up with correspondence backlogs.

Ian Powe, director of the GCS, said: "During its restructuring, British Gas has not maintained the high standards it once achieved. But British Gas directors have assured the Council they really are

committed to getting things back on track.

"We are looking forward to seeing results."

The highest source of consumer concern has been British Gas Trading, which supplies all but 55,000 of the country's 19 million domestic customers, according to the joint statement. Complaints against BGT have soared by 65 per cent during this year although the proportion of gas customers affected is less than 1 per cent. By contrast, complaints about British Gas Service have risen by only 4 per cent, reflecting improvements made after a difficult year in 1995, says the statement.

Mike Alexander, managing director of BGT, commented: "I am very concerned when customers do not receive the service they rightly expect. The speed of change necessary to get ready for the competition has included the introduction of one of the world's largest billing systems in just 18 months."

Mr Alexander continued: "Getting standards back to where they were is our number one priority. Delivering excellent service and value for money is the only way to maintain our market leading position."

The managing director said that BGT had launched several initiatives to achieve this, including extra customer operations staff, opening a new customer service office, investing an extra £6m in computer systems and almost doubling the company's call-handling capacity.

Mr Alexander accepted that it would take time for these actions to feed through into lower complaints figures.

Money supply growth points to consumer boom

NIC CICUTTI

The UK economy looks set for a consumer spending boom as figures from the Bank of England yesterday showed M4 money supply grew by 10 per cent in the year to June, while lending by banks and building societies also increased last month.

The Bank said that seasonally adjusted M4 - a broad measure that includes notes and coins in circulation, plus personal and bank deposits - grew 0.7 per cent in June, slightly below the May figure of 0.8 per cent.

Separately, a survey by the British Bankers' Association showed the total lent by big British banks to the private sector rose by £3.7bn in June. The BBA also reported another rise of £25bn in consumer credit in the same month.

Net mortgage lending by building societies reached £977m last month, down from £1.1bn in May but 12 per cent up on the same period last year. New loan approvals - which feed through into actual loans after a lag of about six weeks - reached £3.4bn.

Adrian Coles, director general at the BSA, said: "Strength in the consumer side of the general economy coupled with stronger house prices are all likely to help to increase confidence."

City economists said the figures pointed to a substantial pick-up in consumer spending in the months ahead and would

make it more difficult for the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, to justify another pre-election cut in interest rates. David Gasparro, UK economist at Schroders, said: "The recent money supply data are slightly worrying in terms of the shift towards lending to consumers and away from lending to companies."

The expected annual M4 growth rate was unchanged at 10 per cent and outside the Government's monitoring range of 3 to 9 per cent. Strong money supply growth is often seen as a warning signal pointing to future inflation. Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said on Tuesday that in-

terest rates might have to increase if the rise continued unchecked. However, a Treasury official said: "M4 growth seems to have stabilised during the second quarter, which is consistent with annual growth of just under 9 per cent."

Most City economists expect Mr Clarke to cut interest rates

below their present 5.75 per cent level at least once more.

Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC Markets, said: "With activity in industry still weak and the inflation picture improving rapidly, Mr Clarke is unlikely to be deterred by M4 alone."

Backing for Mr George came, indirectly, from a quarterly survey by the British Chambers of Commerce, showing that manufacturing industry may be on the road to recovery.

Factory sales, new orders and confidence all increased significantly in the last three months, the BCC found in its survey of more than 8,000 companies. Service sector growth held steady at a relatively high level.

It showed the proportion of firms reporting higher sales in the UK market, minus those reporting declining sales, rose to 19 per cent from 8 per cent. The BCC suggested this weakened the case for further interest rate cuts.

Ian Peters, deputy director general, urged Mr Clarke to follow stable fiscal and monetary policies and not to let the election cloud his judgement.

Greenspan warning on rates boosts shares

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

A warning yesterday by Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that interest rates might have to be raised to contain inflation led to a rally in world bond and stock markets.

Analysts said the apparently perverse reaction was because, the tone of Mr Greenspan's comments, in his twice-yearly Humphrey Hawkins testimony to Congress, suggested market expectations of an immediate rise in rates were too pessimistic.

In early afternoon trading, the

dollar fell but the Dow Jones index was up around 70 points to 5,444 and US bonds and British gilts were buoyant.

In London, shares closed 35.2 higher at 3,693.4 on the FT-SE 100 index.

The prospect of a rising trend in interest rates was one of the reasons behind the sharp sell-off in US markets earlier this week.

Analysts added that investors might have gone short ahead of the meeting, and the rally reflected unwinding of their positions.

Mr Greenspan's indication that the US interest rate cycle

might be turning, with the first rate rise since February 1995, came a day after it emerged that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, opposed last month's cut in sterling interest rates and that he also expects the UK interest rate cycle to turn up in the not too distant future.

In his warning of a possible rate rise, Mr Greenspan said that for some time Federal Reserve policy had been "designed to act pre-emptively" and he was "confident that the Federal Open Market Committee would move to tighten reserve market conditions should the weight of in-

coming evidence persuasively suggest an oncoming intensification of inflation pressures that would jeopardise the durability of the economic expansion."

The testimony included a carefully balanced assessment of the risks of a re-emergence of inflation which said that it was bound to happen, but gave no clear indication of timing.

Mr Greenspan said: "Clearly, in this environment, the Federal Reserve has had to become especially vigilant to incipient inflation pressures that could ultimately threaten the health of the expansion."

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FT-SE 100	3693.40	+35.20	+1.0	3857.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	4226.20	+17.80	+0.4	4598.80	4015.30
FTSE 350	1851.80	+15.60	+0.8	1945.40	1616.60
FT Small Cap	2086.50	+2.89	+0.1	2244.36	1954.06
FT All Share	1832.41	+14.36	+0.8	1924.17	1791.95
New York	5423.12	+48.24	+0.9	5778.00	5032.94
Dow Jones	21568.42	+153.54	+0.7	22668.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	10711.24	+102.14	+1.0	11584.89	10204.67
Frankfurt	2506.22	+9.03	+0.4	2583.49	2253.36

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling*			UK medium gilt*			US long bond			
1 Month	5.50	6.00	7.88	8.30	8.37	7.1	7.6	8.0	8.7
3 Months	5.41	6.13	8.24	8.42	8.59	7.0	7.5	7.9	8.6
6 Months	5.36	6.13	8.39	8.77	-	6.9	7.4	7.8	8.5
1 Year	5.28	6.13	8.99	8.95	-	6.7	7.2	7.6	8.4
*The base interest rate			*Treasury 2 1/2%						
Money Market Rates			Bond Yields *						
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	10yr Avg	Long Bond	(%) 10yr Avg			
K	5.69	6.00	7.88	8.30	8.00	8.37			
S	5.41	6.13	8.24	8.42	6.99	8.57			
Japan	9.96	1.31	3.39	2.77	-	-			
Germany	3.28	3.50	6.39	6.66	6.95	-			
*Money market indices									
MAIN PRICE CHANGES									
Index	Price (p)	Change (p)	Change%	Falls	Price (p)	Change (p)	% Change		
British Airways	2145	180	9.2	Sealand Group	114	4	3.4		
Charterhouse Group	23	7.3	31.7	Stemline Group	429	14	3.2		
Labrador	17	4.9	28.8	Lex Service	348	9	2.5		

CURRENCIES

S/\$

Day	Rate
F	1.54
T	1.54
W	1.54
T	1.54
F	1.54

E/DM

Day	Rate
F	2.30
T	2.25
W	2.20
T	2.15
F	2.10

S/Y

Day	Rate
F	1.50
T	1.45
W	1.40
T	1.35
F	1.30

1200 Noon exchange rates and Q2 Base September at 2000 hours

Pound

Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
\$ (London)	1.5455 -0.30c	1.5983
\$ (New York)	1.5455 unch	1.5950
DM (London)	2.3053 +0.35pt	2.2017
¥ (London)	167.95 -20.41n	140.27n
£ Index	64.8 unch	63.4

Dollar

Yesterday	Change	Year Ago
R (London)	0.6470 +0.12	0.6253
R (New York)	0.6470 unch	1.5950
DM (London)	1.4917 +0.55pt	1.3787
¥ (London)	108.695 +20.05	87.7192
\$ Index	96.5 +0.1	90.0

OTHER INDICATORS

Yesterday	Day's High	Year Ago	Index	Latest Tr Price	West Flgs
Q2 Brant S	19.50	-0.2	15.77	RPI	153.0 +2.10c 149.8 15 Aug
Gold S	363.73	+0.15	367.20	GDP	130.3 +1.25c 126.2 26 July
Gold E	245.26	-0.07	242.11	Base Rates	5.75pc 5.75 —



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INSTRUMENTS
FOR PROFESSIONALS

business

Investors half-hearted on Biotech rights issue

MAGNUS GRIMOND

More than half of British Biotech's shareholders shunned the company's £143m rights issue, thought to be the largest cash raising by any biotechnology company ever, but this failed to dampen enthusiasm for the sector yesterday.

Its own shares jumped by 180p to £21.43, well clear of the £20.50 rights price, and there were gains across the board as relief at the lifting of uncertainty surrounding the issue mingled with a flood of good news from other biotechnology companies.

Cantab Pharmaceuticals saw its shares climb 68p to 663p as it announced a collaboration worth up to £24m with SmithKline Beecham to develop a vaccine for genital warts. M.L. Laboratories' shares were also strong, rising 17p to 361p, after becoming one of the few biotechnology groups to declare a profit.

Only 49 per cent of British Biotech's offering, 3.55 million

new shares, was taken up by shareholders. The balance was allocated to sub-underwriters. Kleinwort Benson, manager of the issue, said "a small number" had asked to have their shares placed with the rest of the underwriting pool.

Most of the sub-underwriting was done by existing shareholders, of which the largest before the issue were Morgan Grenfell with 10.6 per cent, funds managed by Mercury Asset Management, which recently dipped below 10 per cent, and the likes of Guardian Royal Exchange, National Provident Institution and Royal Insurance, with between 3.5 per cent and 4 per cent.

There were widely differing views about the success of the issue yesterday. Peter Burton of Kleinwort Benson said: "Basically I think 49 per cent was a good result, bearing in mind the sentiment which was created over the last week or so." He dismissed talk that the rump of the rights would now overhang

the price, pointing to yesterday's stock market movements as showing the stock now had a "demonstrable floor".

John Savin, an analyst with Greig Middleton, reiterated his view that the shares would have a "fair value" of over £50 by the end of the year. But he forecast that there would be turbulence over the next few days as the after-effects of the rights are sorted out.

Other analysts, however, continue to view British Biotech, under the chief executive Keith McCullagh, as overvalued and suggested that the rights could now overhang the share price. One said: "It is probably quite healthy we have seen this correction. I don't think we will see a slide in the sector, but it will need some more news to get the share prices moving again."

Even so, most observers said Cantab's deal with SmithKline for its TA-GW vaccine for genital warts would be good for both companies. Under the agreement, the biotechnology

group will receive £7m down and up to £17m more if certain development targets are met. SmithKline will have exclusive worldwide development, manufacturing and marketing rights to TA-GW products and will also pay undisclosed royalties.

M.L. Laboratories, meanwhile, said it had made a pre-tax profit of £83,100 in the six months to March, compared with a loss of £1.4m in the comparable period of last year. It is only the second profit in the group's history.

The figures were boosted by turnover, which soared from £617,000 to £2.84m, and interest income, raised from £202,000 to £315,000. Stuart Sim, deputy chief executive, said the group's cash pile had grown to over £30m since January's £25m cash raising as a result of the first instalments of recent licensing agreements being received.

Mr Sim predicted that the group would be profitable for the full year as access and licence fees built up.



In the clear: British Biotech chief executive Keith McCullagh saw shares jump 180p

TBI buys Belfast airport

MAGNUS GRIMOND

TBI, the property group which owns Cardiff Airport, yesterday announced it was adding Belfast International Airport to its portfolio in a £100m deal. The shares and cash acquisition will be part financed through a £19.6m vendor placing of TBI's shares at 70p. The shares added 1p to 73.5p yesterday.

The acquisition follows the blocking of plans by Belfast International to buy its rival, Belfast City Airport, earlier this year after an investigation by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Keith Brooks, TBI's chief executive, said he was unconcerned by the new outburst of unrest in the province. "We have never programmed in any peace dividend. Over the past 10 years, passenger numbers have grown by 80 per cent regardless of whether there has been an outbreak of troubles."

Belfast International Airport is said to be one of the largest regional airports in the UK, handling 2.4 million passengers in the year to March. One of the attractions of the deal is the development potential of the airport's 200 acre site.

Management and employees who backed the buy-out of the company from the Government in 1994 will share in the £72.4m being paid for the share capital, of which £37.3m will be satisfied in cash and the remainder through the issue of TBI shares. Underlying operating profits grew from £5.3m to £8.2m in the year to March. Separately, TBI announced that its profits had soared from £4.13m to £10.1m in the same period. Cardiff Airport saw its profits rise from £3.2m to £5.2m.

Imro offers deal to firms that admit mis-selling

NIC CICUTTI

Imro, the fund managers' watchdog, is offering to deal more leniently with members who were guilty of mis-selling personal pensions, as long as they admit the offence.

The regulator has told some of the 23 firms under investigation for widespread mis-selling that a guilty plea would lead

to less publicity being given to their case.

In a paper seen by the Independent, instead of an announcement being made specifically about the individual firm, Imro says it would wait until several companies admit their guilt before publishing their names at the same time.

The alternative, Imro says, would be to go through normal

procedures, including a hearing before a disciplinary tribunal. "However, in such circumstances, Imro would make no concessions concerning the timing of publication of the results of the tribunal hearing."

The document is being given to Imro members at meetings to discuss the investigations into more than 60,000 pension transfers carried out by their

financial advice arms. Firms are told they can also choose to defer the date of any eventual penalty to give themselves time to put their house in order.

Imro's new stance flies against previous statements made by financial regulators, that negative publicity is a more effective punishment and a deterrent against potential wrongdoers than a fine.

However, some experts claimed yesterday that Imro's stance is also based on the fact that it is finding it difficult to prove some of its members guilty.

One source close to the negotiations between the watchdog and companies under investigation, said: "The investigations over pensions mis-selling appear to have stalled."

He added: "The message appears to be if you plead guilty, even where you don't necessarily believe you were, Imro will go easier on you than if you decide to go through the full procedure."

"This also appears to be motivated by political considerations. Imro appears to be determined to make an impact as an organisation that can

crack down hard on those guilty of mis-selling. But to do that you need to secure a few convictions. This is aimed at achieving them."

Imro said yesterday that it could not comment on the leaked document but that its determination to clamp down on rule breaches, including mis-selling pension pensions, was unchanged.

Allied Carpets set to roll out successful float

It looks like a hat trick of successful stock market flotations for the larger specialist furnishings groups.

First there was Sir Phil Harris with Carpetright, then along came Sir Graham Kirkham and DFS Furniture and now, all going well, there is Allied Carpets. No doubt Allied's managing director, plain old Ray Nethercott, has left a date in his diary for an appointment with Her Majesty. He should be able to afford a decent top hat and tails as the flotation makes him a millionaire three times over even after a last-minute scaling back of expectations.

Yesterday Allied bowed to recent stock market turbulence by announcing a flotation price of 215p, valuing the group at just over £189m. That's at the lower end of 205p-235p range set out in the prospectus but given choppy market conditions Allied and its advisers must be pleased with their efforts.

True, the response to the intermediaries retail offer was disappointing, with only 11.9 per cent of the shares taken up. In addition, superstore Asda is selling its entire 41 per cent holding to raise £65m.

But significantly, CinVen, the venture capitalist group that organised the 1991 buyout from Lowndes Queensway, is only cutting its stake from 13.2 per cent to 10 per cent, instead of the 5 per cent indicated in the offer document.

CinVen and the institutional investors who signed up may be on to something. At the offer price, Allied stands on a prospective p/e multiple of 13 times, substantially below the high-teens rating Carpetright commands. The lack of a track record helps explain the discount but there are plenty of reasons to believe that gap will narrow.

While Allied's operating margin of 6.3 per cent is half that of Carpetright, that reflects a different sales mix and market positioning plus the two companies' different stages of development.

Allied has 12 per cent of the carpet market, just ahead of Carpetright. It should be able to pinch market share from the independents, who still control 58 per cent of the market, with a target store-opening programme of 20 a year, mainly the flagship Allied chain. Like the independents, Allied is targeting the mid-upper end of the market while Carpetright has so far focused on the price-driven lower end of the market.

Allied is also operationally geared to higher sales with a very modern and efficient warehousing operation in Bolton. Each additional 1 per cent on sales adds almost 6 per cent to earnings per share

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

compared with 3.2 per cent at Carpetright. The market is also set to grow as the number of housing transactions increases. Some analysts have pencilled in compound growth of at least 40 per cent over the next three years and think the shares could hit 300p by next summer. This one looks priced to go.

Motor parts deal makes good sense

The acquisition of Motor World by Finelist, a 75-for-73 share swap, seems to make such abundant sense that yesterday's 7p drop in the purchaser's share price to 285p seems a harsh assessment. It is, however, a large buy by Finelist's standards so some nervousness is perhaps understandable.

In essence, the deal is a piece of vertical integration, putting Motor World's 328 retail motor-parts outlets together with Finelist's 208 existing distribution sites. Combining the two should provide purchasing efficiencies, better relationships with suppliers, a wider customer base, cost savings and a better use of the group's infrastructure. It is expected to be earnings enhancing in the first year.

The deal makes sense on a purely arithmetic basis, with immediate savings worth maybe £500,000 together with Motor World's profits inflating forecasts for Finelist for the year to next June from about £9.7m to £14m. Earnings per share in this first year should be slightly enhanced from 19.6p to 19.9p.

Next year the benefits really start to flow with existing forecasts of about £10.5m being bumped up yesterday to maybe £17.5m and eps of 21.3p expanding to 23.5p. The important point, however, is that these figures assume very little benefit from what, given Finelist's recent record, will be a concerted assault on margins at Motor World.

With an underlying return on sales of perhaps only between 5 and 6 per cent there is plainly plenty to go for before Motor World's margins approach Finelist's basic return of nearer 10 or 11 per cent.

Finelist has a good record of integrating and improving acquisitions.

The combined group will become a substantial player in the hugely fragmented motor-parts market, estimated to be worth £4bn a year. Most retailers are single site operations, with little information technology back-up and clearly a sizeable group with efficient systems is in a good position to progressively take market share.

At a premium of 36 per cent to Motor World's share price before the recommended deal was announced, that company's shareholders can feel happy that they are being given a reasonable exit from a relatively uninspiring investment over the past few years.

For Finelist shareholders, on a prospective p/e of 13 this year, with good growth to come, the shares look good value.

Atkins builds on traditional design

WS Atkins is thumbing its nose at the current turmoil in the new issues market. Undaunted by signs of indignation amongst institutional investors, the market debut of the engineering to facilities management consultancy group has been priced at the upper end of expectations. Yesterday's placing at 215p puts a historic multiple of close to 17 times on the shares, more than a full point above the rating on the FT All-share. But advisers say the issue went down well with institutions at marketing presentations, an assertion which seems to have been borne out by the placing's one-and-a-half times oversubscription.

Certainly the past trading performance can hardly be faulted. Pre-tax profits have expanded relentlessly from £7.08m in 1992 to £19.8m in the year to March. This impressive growth in the face of one of the worst construction recessions since the war has been heavily influenced by acquisitions, although earnings per share have also grown from 4.9p to 12.8p over the five years.

Atkins has purchased businesses to diversify out of its traditional business in civil and structural engineering design. Acquisitions have included the Property Services Agency building management operation, a tunnelling consultant in Hong Kong, railway engineering consultants and Faithful & Gould, a quantity surveyor and cost engineering consultancy, picked up earlier this year for £21.1m.

New businesses, along with substantial property management and highway engineering contracts for various local authorities, mean that so-called support services represent 22 per cent of under-lying operating profits. Ironically, though, it is the traditional business which has seen all the growth recently. Profits from the core division soared from £3.88m to £9.92m last year as final payments came through on massive construction and engineering projects like the multi-billion pound Al Yamamah defence contract and the 1,000-ft high Chicago Beach resort, both in the Middle East.

The risks, political and otherwise, are also currently concentrated in the new businesses. Profits could top £25m this year, cutting the multiple to nearer 13. Not to be chased in the current state of the market.

Pigeon war hots up as RSCPA homes in with possible charges

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

The pigeon row is hotting up. For those new to the scandal, Scottish Life International sent 77 homing pigeons to financial journalists on Wednesday morning as a publicity stunt for a new product launch.

A significant number of journalists, however, failed to see the funny side and complained to the RSCPA about the birds, which had been couriered around to offices in cardboard boxes.

Although 77 birds were sent out, four failed to return to Scottish Life - they were impounded by the RSCPA, which is considering legal action under the 1911 Cruelty to Animals in Transit Act.

Clarendon, the PR outfit behind the stunt, said: "We are absolutely furious with the RSCPA. They have manipulated this for themselves without investigating the facts of pigeon racing."

A Clarendon spokesman said that pigeons had been used to carry messages for 300 years, and racing pigeons were quite accustomed to being transported in boxes. He admitted, however, that the agency should have warned the journalists about the impending arrival of the birds

beforehand. The RSCPA recalls that there has been another example of live animals being sent to people as a stunt. In 1988, video shops received packets of corn snakes to advertise a film called *The Serpent*.

Snakes, indeed. At least pigeons only make a mess on the carpet.

Sir Colin Marshall of British Airways did not get quite the reception he hoped for yesterday at BT's agm in Newcastle, as he sat on the podium for the first time as non-executive director and deputy chairman.

One of the first questions to be asked by a shareholder was what the board thought about the allegations of dirty tricks by BT against cable companies. The claim is that BT has been phoning people who have switched to cable, and trying to win them back, even when the customers are ex-directors.

The shareholder then remarked that she had spoken against the appointment of Sir Colin at last year's agm, because she "could see this kind of thing would happen". Nobody needed to be reminded of BA's long-standing



For the birds: They have carried messages for 300 years

row with Virgin over Richard Branson's own allegations of dirty tricks.

Sir Colin sat through the exchange stony-faced. Had he really gone all the way up to Newcastle to hear this?

To the Emap agm off Fleet Street for the vital vote. Chief executive Robin Miller and his colleagues are trying to cut the minimum number of non-executive directors on the board at any one time from five to three.

Non-executive chairman Sir John Hoskyns, of Burton fame, rises to support the motion, and mentions that

two of the board's 13 directors are unable to attend, one executive and one non. Apparently one of the directors is sunning himself on a Mediterranean beach.

Then up gets Joe Cooke, Telegraph Group vice-chairman and one of the Emap board's dissident non-execs. He tells shareholders non-execs are "very busy people" so you need a lot of them on the board to ensure a good turn-out at each meeting. Just look at today - two directors missing. Touché.

Despite this rapier-like intervention, the board wins on a poll.

NOTICE TO INVESTORS

N&P Overseas Limited gives notice that the annual and monthly rates of interest payable on its UK Reserve and UK Reserve Notice accounts, with effect from 18 July 1996, will be as indicated below:

UK Reserve		
Minimum Balance (£)	Gross Annual Interest Rate (%)	Gross Monthly Interest Rate (%)
2,000	2.80	2.77
5,000	3.70	3.64
10,000	4.80	4.70
25,000	5.20	5.09
50,000	5.40	5.28
100,000	5.45	5.32
250,000	5.50	5.37

Balances falling below £2,000 will earn 1% interest

UK Reserve Notice		
Minimum Balance (£)	Gross Annual Interest Rate (%)	Gross Monthly Interest Rate (%)
5,000	4.10	4.03
10,000	5.20	5.09
25,000	5.60	5.47
50,000	5.80	5.66
100,000	5.85	5.70
250,000	5.90	5.75

Balances falling below £5,000 will earn 2% interest

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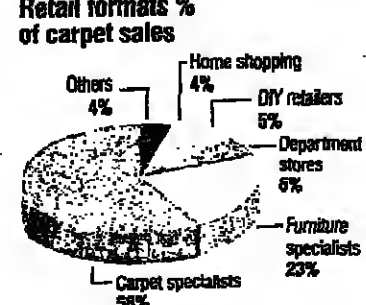
ALLIED CARPETS - AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.69m, share price 215p

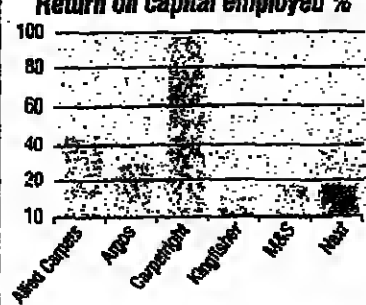
Five-Year record	1993	1994*	1995**	1996	1997***
Year to end - June					
Turnover (£m)	169	169	200	250	
Pre-tax profits (£m)	1.29	1.22	14.6	18.5	
Earnings per share (pence)			11.5	14.1	
Dividends per share (pence)			6.6	6.0	

*74 Weeks to 2 July **Year to 1 July ***RHS forecast

Retail formats % of carpet sales



Return on capital employed %



The balance of power has shifted at Emap

COMMENT

Yesterday's annual meeting has created the impression, unfairly or otherwise, that the chairman Sir John Hoskyns and his fellow directors were out to weaken shareholder interests.

The Emap board (or rather most of it) may have won the vote but it is less obvious that it has won the argument. Moreover, yesterday's annual meeting which saw director pitted against director on corporate governance issues, has created the impression, unfairly or otherwise, that the chairman Sir John Hoskyns and his fellow directors were out to weaken shareholder interests under the guise of an innocent housekeeping exercise. Even the vote itself was not that overwhelming. In order to change its articles of association allowing the board to reduce the number of non-executive directors and remove a director on a 75 per cent vote, Emap needed the support of three-quarters of those who turned up to vote. In the event it got 82 per cent but that still only represented a third of all those shareholders registered to vote.

Looking at the resolutions it is easy to see why two of the non-executives, Joe Cooke and Professor Ken Simmonds, felt unable to support the rest of the board. Emap could, in theory, reduce its board, which presently consists of six execs and seven non-exec, down to just three or have only one non-executive on the board.

Emap insists that nobody is about to be sacked and that the purpose of the changes was emphatically not designed to weaken the position of the non-executives, by extension, shareholders. Merely a tidying up exercise old boy to bring us into line with a host of other Footsie companies.

But there is no doubt that the balance of power has shifted. Hitherto, Emap could only remove an executive director if he was in breach of his employment contract, while a non-exec could only be turfed out through an ordinary resolution put to an annual shareholders' meeting.

Sir John argued yesterday that the balance has shifted for the good since the ability to throw out a fellow director on a 75 per cent vote makes it harder for a single director or a small number to dominate the rest of the board or conspire against shareholder interests.

Emap also insists that it has no intention of using the 75 per cent rule to get rid of independent non-executives and stuff the board with time-servers. This may well be the case. But the board must now be judged by its behaviour, which, following yesterday's events, has been given considerably wider scope.

Bungee-jump could be the start of a slide

The excitement on Wall Street earlier this week was good news for the headline writers. If the Dow's wild gyrations on Tuesday are remembered for nothing else they did at least add a new phrase to the lexicon of the dealing rooms, the bungee-jump crash, to describe the speed with which frenzied buying took over from frenzied selling

in possibly the most volatile day yet on a stock market.

Not surprisingly attention focused on whether the market's rollercoaster ride was the prelude to a crash on the scale of 1987 or even 1929. The reality is probably more prosaic - while a major crash over the pond would see the supposedly decoupled Anglo-Saxon markets recoupling with indecent haste, what London is more likely to be embarking on is a sizeable correction of the kind that in a quiet way knocked 20 per cent off the value of the All Share in the first half of 1994.

It was an unremarkable slide, but the fall in the All Share from 1764 to 1445 between February and June 1994 dealt a heavy blow to fully invested investors in what should have been a year of recovery. Many of the features of that market look horribly familiar today.

Most noticeable is the sudden way in which the new issues market has fallen out of bed in the past couple of weeks. No one will readily admit to pulling a float because of market conditions, but there are more than a handful of expected issues that have just not appeared. For those that are taking the plunge, the waters are proving chillier than their advisers might have hoped.

Allied Carports priced itself at the bottom end of expectations yesterday while a brace of AIM hopefuls have found that shares can indeed go down as well as up. Headhunter

Hat Pin and drugs minnow Alizyme both sagged in first dealings, with the latter losing more than 10 per cent yesterday, on a par with the disastrous British Energy flotation.

Alizyme is just the sort of company you would expect to do badly in jittery markets. Founded only last year, available forecasts show a small loss last year growing to a bigger one this time and doubling again next year. Its search for obesity and gastrointestinal drugs will use up the £5m it is raising from investors within two years.

The market fatigue that was inevitable after the rush of new entrants in recent weeks is a rumour of the slump in interest in March and April 1994 that left a raft of property and construction companies high and dry. If the pattern repeats itself, then the 5 per cent fall in the All Share since April is just the beginning.

BT is running out of time in Ofel battle

The stand-off between BT and Ofel is going right down to the wire. Despite the protestations from BT's shareholders in Newcastle yesterday, Doo Cruickshank is not for turning. The director general of telecommunications last night delivered his final, final proposals on price controls and anti-competitive behaviour to BT, bluntly stating that they are "indivisibly linked".

Moreover, he has told BT that unless he receives a response by 2 August, BT will be considered to have rejected the proposals and will be packed off to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Although BT does not, therefore, need to reply next Tuesday when it holds its crunch board meeting, it is fast running out of time. It may yet come down to tactics. One option for BT is to freeze the countdown by seeking a judicial review of Ofel's right to link the price formula and anti-competitive powers. In the meantime the Government might then come to the rescue by promising legislation which will give BT a right of appeal against any Ofel ruling, thus allowing it to accept the package.

The danger is that unless BT has its ducks in a row inside the next two weeks, it will not be able to escape the clutches of the MMC.

On balance, its best course of action would still be to accept the Ofel proposals as they stand and hope for legislative amendments in due course. The new price formula reduces the proportion of BT's income that is regulated from 64 per cent to 26 per cent. It is also the last set of retail price controls.

BT cannot guarantee getting a better deal out of the MMC, either on prices or anti-competitive behaviour, while the distraction of a six to nine month inquiry is surely something that its management would prefer to live without.

HK legislator in fraud charges

Who he was elected to the Hong Kong legislature as the representative of stockbrokers and other financial sector employees, Chim Pui-chung promptly rushed out to buy a gold Rolls-Royce.

Already well-known as a stock market wheeler-dealer Mr Chim became known as a defender of indefensible market practices. Yesterday he was set for another defence as he found himself in court facing three forgery charges and was only released on bail after forwarding HK\$340m (£3.4m) in cash and sureties.

In typically robust style, Mr Chim emerged from court to say he saw no reason why he needed to resign from the legislature. He has yet to enter a plea about the charges, which arise from extensive investigations by the watchdog Securities and Futures Commission and the Commercial Crimes Bureau.

The charges, alleging the creation and use of false instruments to "effect the pur-

ported transfer of shares from two companies allegedly controlled by Mr Chim, the subsequent transfer of shares from the bogus purchasers to a company and a conspiracy to defraud of the SFC to avoid compliance with the takeover code.

Mr Chim often believes that attack is the best form of defence. On Tuesday he was in the High Court with a libel writ seeking a breathtaking HK\$500m (£4.2m) in damages from five past and present SFC directors.

The stock market watchdog had earlier sought the winding up of Mandarin Resources, a company controlled by Mr Chim, on grounds that he allegedly breached his fiduciary duties, induced company assets, violated regulations and

about making the compensation issue a focus of his legislative activities, taking precedence over other issues.

Mr Chim is a very wealthy man. When he was first elected to the legislature he boasted that he owned properties in Hong Kong worth HK\$600m-HK\$700m, alongside some HK\$200m invested in Chinese properties, a total of some £76m.

Some of this wealth was acquired by acting as a stockbroker for George Tan, the head of the collapsed Carrian group who is involved in Hong Kong's longest-running trial on criminal charges arising from the collapse.

Mr Chim has added a dash of considerable colour to the generally grey world of Hong Kong politics and stockbroking; his removal from the scene would be a big blow to the colony's cartoonists and talk show hosts.

However, while free on bail Mr Chim is unlikely to suddenly take the vow of silence.



'No need to resign': Colourful Hong Kong businessman Chim Pui-chung emerging from court yesterday after the first day of his trial in the colony on fraud charges

Equitas selects managers to look after £7bn

PETER RODGERS
Financial Editor

In one of the largest fund management deals in British history, Equitas, the vehicle for the rescue of the Lloyd's insurance market, yesterday appointed nine managers to look after more than £7bn of assets.

Each will have between £500m and £1bn to look after, once the £3.2bn rescue plan for Lloyd's has been approved by the market's members next month.

The money is part of the £14.7bn of assets Equitas is taking over in its role as insurer of the losses of Lloyd's syndicates for the years up to 1992. The assets are being put into Equitas to pay claims against Lloyd's, at the same time insulating members from past losses.

In the UK, the winning managers are BZW Investment Management, PDM, Prudential Portfolio Managers and Mercury Asset Management, which was appointed by Equitas in May as the manager handling the transfer of the funds to Equitas.

In the US, where a majority

of the claims against Equitas will come from, the managers are Black Rock Financial Management, Scudder Stevens & Clark, Wellington Management Company and Zurich Investment Management. RT Capital Management will handle Equitas investments in Canada.

More than half the funds, which are all fixed-interest, will be managed in the US. The intention is to allocate them to different countries in proportion to the likely claims against Equitas.

Equitas plans to stick to fixed-income investments at the outset, but Jane Barker, finance director, said the company might at some stage invest part of its assets in equities.

Equitas will not have the full £14.7bn on its balance sheet to invest, partly because more than £4bn is in the form of reinsurance recoveries rather than cash. Some claims have also been paid since the end-1995 balance sheet date at which the £14.7bn was calculated, and more are likely to be settled by the time the funds are transferred to the nine managers.

IN BRIEF

- Nationwide Building Society narrowly staved off a bid by dissident members at its agm to cut the salaries paid to its senior executives. A proposal by long-standing rebel member Ben Jacobs to set up a committee to "review" boardroom salaries was defeated by 156,988 votes to 138,696, including postal votes. Brian Davis, Nationwide chief executive, whose total pay package stands at £400,000, said he was pleased that despite the populist nature of the resolution it was still defeated. He added that he personally waived £45,000 of his pay package last year.
- Legal & General Group's world-wide new life, pensions and investment business in the first half of 1996 climbed from £133.3m to £185.6m, and was interpreted by analysts as further evidence that the UK life sector was set for a sustained recovery. Earlier this week Prudential, the UK's largest life insurance group, reported that new business soared 27 per cent to £623m, and Sun Life announced a 19 per cent boost to £144m.
- The Securities and Futures Authority has expelled John Odell from stock broking for "churning" and other actions relating to his management of a private client's account. He was also ordered to pay £3,000 costs. Branstee & Gothard, the firm he worked for from his home on a self-employed half-commission basis, has been reprimanded for failing to adequately supervise Mr Odell, fined £10,000 and ordered to pay the SFA's costs of £6,000.
- Mondex, owner of the electronic cash system invented by NatWest, is negotiating with Asahi Bank, Sakura Bank and Industrial Bank of Japan to form a new Japanese franchise. This emerged as NatWest said the technology has been sold to a new international company capitalised at £100m and owned by the banks' participating world-wide in the scheme, with NatWest keeping 10 per cent. NatWest will be reimbursed for its development costs.
- Railtrack has gained the place in the FT-SE 100 that became available after the merger of Sun Alliance and Royal Insurance. Serco will take Railtrack's place in the FT-SE Mid 250 index.
- WS Atkins's directors and many of its 6,000 employees will own shares worth £119m following the engineering to facilities management consultancy's flotation next week. They will own 60 per cent of group, which will be capitalised at £198m at yesterday's 215p a share placing price.

Informative:

With effect from 1 August 1996 the following rates will apply:

Mortgage Rate		
	From	To
All loan amounts	6.69% pa	6.49% pa

Equity Release Loan		
	From	To
All loan amounts	6.69% pa	6.49% pa

If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:

	From	To
All loan amounts	6.69% pa	6.49% pa

If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:

	From	To
All loan amounts	8.69% pa	8.49% pa

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MINI

**Did we bite off more
than we could chew?
There were whispers
there were doubts
words were eaten**

The Adams Collection sale made £5.5 million. 4 world records were smashed. Country Life said: "The sound of grinding teeth was audible at Sotheby's and Christie's...."

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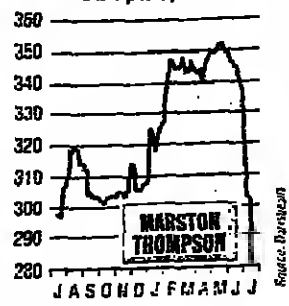
market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3693.4 +35.2
FT-SE 250
4225.2 +17.8
FT-SE 350
1881.8 +15.6
SEAQ VOLUME
592.3m shares,
24,355 bargains
Gifts Index
92.90 +0.09

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence



Sunshine and strike make for thin trading in London

TAKING STOCK

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter
of the year

Shares continued to recover, with some brave souls even prepared to chase a few of the more enduring takeover candidates.

As Alan Greenspan seemingly ruled out any near-term US move to devalue money, interest rate-sensitive shares, such as builders and retailers, suddenly looked more confident. The FT-SE 100 index jumped 35.2 points to 3693.4 and even the supporting 250-share measurement managed a little more than a token response.

Trading, however, remained thin with another London Underground strike and the attractions of the summer sunshine combining to reduce stock market numbers and, therefore, trading.

The rally which has followed the slide has failed to carry much conviction, largely because of the uninspiring volume levels which often leave

the market at the mercy of gyrational futures activity.

Still, in the more relaxed atmosphere some speculators felt it time to give Christmas International, the fine art auctioneer, another whirl. There have been hints of possible action this week although they might have been obscured by the market turmoil.

The shares were 5p in the money at 218p with stories resurfacing that Joseph Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor with near-30 per cent, was flexing his investment muscle.

The auctioneer has not, it is felt, produced the sort of returns Mr Lewis expected when he started stake-building. Although he could be tempted to bid he is more likely to sell his shares on to a more aggressive party. There are also suggestions Christmas could be planning to acquire an unquoted company which could dilute the Lewis shareholding.

Talk of a financial deal was also heard. Mercury Asset Management rose 24p to 920p with Close Brothers, the banker owning Winterflood Securities, up 5p to 331p on suggestions of a link. Medeva, up 5p to 239p, and Wm Morrison, 3p higher at 165p, also felt speculative pressure.

Utilities were firm, partly on hopes of corporate activity. Salomon Brothers, the US house, is keen on the water sector; it talks about "buckets of value" with the market over cautious about political and regulatory influences.

Railtrack got up steam for an entirely different reason - inclusion in the blue chip Foot-

sie index. The shares advanced 4.5p to 214p as Railtrack claimed the vacancy left by the merger of insurance giants, Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance.

Marston Thompson & Evershed, the brewer, fell 2.5p to 282p. The shares were 35p in May. The fall has accelerated since Marston splashed out £20m for the Pitcher & Piano bars chain. Although the Burton-on-Trent group, famed for its Pedigree bitter, needs a more trendy retail image it seems to have overpaid for P&P which is scheduled for expensive expansion.

British Biotech suffered the humiliation of a 49 per cent

rights issue take up. With the uncertainty over, the shares rallied 180p to 214.5p. The removal of a cash drain also helped other biotechs with Chiroscience 23p healthier at 340p.

Cantab Pharmaceuticals vaccine link with SmithKline Beecham lifted the shares 68p to 663p; SmithKline strengthened the deal by buying a 3.15 per cent Cantab stake.

Lasmo flared 7p to 180p after it finally clinched an Algerian production deal. Enterprise, in sympathy, rose 11.5p to 491p. Shell, with ABN Amro Hoare Govett talking of a 1,100p target, put on 17p to 942p.

Insurances were helped by Kleinwort Benson support with Legal & General, which it removed from its sell list, up 14p to 701p. Allianz, on AIM, felt the biotech drought, off 7p from its 60p placing level. But Life Numbers, a personal telephone number business, dialled in with a 2p gain to 13p. A

share and warrant package showed an 8p plus to 33p.

Kwik Save, the discount retailer, shed 3p to 428p as Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull said the shares were a sell down to 400p.

Lucas Industries motored 5p to 216p; it was removed from a US navy blacklist. General Electric Co gained 9.5p to 374.5p on a Ministry of Defence order.

Motors World advanced 65p to 285p on the agreed £48.1m bid from Finisist but Blenheim, the exhibition group, slipped 14p to 429p on the failure of any United News & Media bid to materialise. Innovations, the home shopping group, rose 17p to 21.5p, awaiting takeover action and Rainford, an electrical equipment group which has admitted a predator lurks, put on 2p to 315p.

Teknomic, the electronics group, fell 18p to 53p after warning of a second-half loss.

JSkyNet, the vehicle security group, gained 20p to 270p after it linked with European Telecom, a mobile telephone distributor.

It hopes the deal will lead to sales of 48,000 security units a year. SkyNet is planning to move from Oxf to AIM as part of a £2m cash raising.

Shares of the fledgling security group were placed at 27.5p; they arrived on Oxf last month at around 47.5p, closing at 92p on the first day of trading.

An odd deal in Queens Moat Houses, the hotel group, left the market guessing. A two-day old trade of 6.75 million shares at 16p was printed.

QMH has been comfortably above 10p since December. After the out-of-line trade was notified the shares ended 2.5p higher at 15p.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights = Ex-dividend = Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended = Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended = Ex all UK Unlisted Securities Market's Suspended.

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Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
Harrods	200,000	Parfums	90,000	LUX	60,000
Unilever	200,000	ASDA Group	80,000	BAE	50,000
BP	100,000	Light 78	70,000	British Gas	40,000
BT	100,000	Waters	60,000	WPP	30,000

FT-SE 100 index hour by hour

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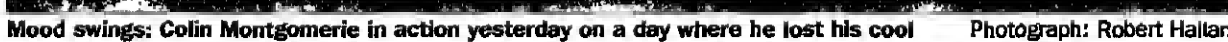
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Richard Edmondson watches another display of petulance from a player who cannot stop snapping at photographers

And on it went, the world No

long, fluid, almost feminine



swing, though this year he has

The 18th rather capped it all, Montgomerie's drive trickling

To be lair to Monty, it was a living hell at Royal Lytham yesterday. He had to endure

clear, blue skies and the sight of butterflies flitting across the greens in the disturbing knowledge that if he wins this tournament they will make him take home £200,000. At 1.47 this afternoon the struggle goes on.

Faldo has to borrow £10

The hit list is as follows: Nairn - (Invernesshire) "Crowd wouldn't be large enough, no car park." Royal Dornoch (Far North-east Scotland) "Same as the above. Not long enough." But Westward Ho (North Devon) "You'd never get rid of the horses." Royal Liverpool (Hoylake) "That's one course we do miss. It's magnificent hot totally

A former doctor who regularly works at Open venues said: "Discretion essentially means no noise within two miles or the powers that be go bonkers."

So after day one has emergency planning gone well? "Our worst injury so far has been a broken shooting stick," Holden said. The damage? "Well, I can't show you photographs at the moment, but let's just say there was blood."

Ooh!

Andy Farrell links up with some nervous starters on the first tee

Willison, 36, whose caddie is called Johnny Miller but is un-

"It is an amazing feeling to

be playing in the Open," Langenaeken, one of only two Belgian touring pros, said. "I am only the fourth player from my country to play in the Open. It has happened so quickly, I don't think I realise what this means. I never thought I would get through the qualifying. I was very nervous teeing up and it took me five holes to calm down."

A group of Ealing members, who had been sampling the delights of Blackpool only a few short hours previously, were following Willison, but Langenaeken's only support came from Christian Dijkstra, the pro at Royal Waterlool, A pre-

At the far end of the course the gallery started to thin out as the early morning risers hung back to pick up Nick Faldo. Mackenzie holed from 30 feet at the sixth and had three birdies in four holes from the

"I was looking to get more under par. My objective was too high. It's a very tough finish. The rookie's mistake was duplicated by the 16-year tour player. At the 15th, Mackenzie drove into a bunker, which cost a bogey. He did the same at the last and with three putts, the second horseshoeing out, took six. "That's going to spoil my lunch," he said. "It was a very disappointing finish. I played too good for a 71." Of the two, the Belgian's English was the better.

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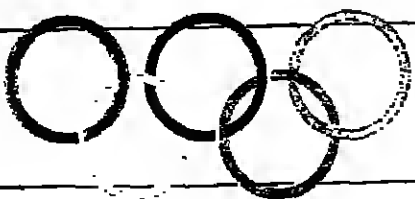
Television times
BBC2 10.30am-3.55pm; BBC1
3.55-5.35; BBC2 5.35-7.30;
11.15pm-midnight

Today's weather
Dry and very warm with sunshine, oc-
casionally hazy.
Temp: 24C

“TIME...

هكذا من الاصل

SPORT



TOMORROW: 48-PAGE GUIDE TO THE OLYMPICS
including day-by-day timetable

125TH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP: Conditions to the liking of Lytham specialist as Faldo keeps in touch with leaders

Becalmed Broadhurst sails ahead

TIM GLOVER

reports from Royal Lytham

Staging the Open Championship on a links course without wind is a bit like running a grand prix with a fleet of Renaults. Lytham was becalmed to such a degree that if you had placed a cigarette paper on top of the Blackpool Tower it would have remained undisturbed.

A posse of Americans, who probably thought they were playing in the Arizona desert rather than on the Lancashire coast, took advantage of the conditions yesterday to appear on the leaderboard after the first round although a Midlander with a good track record around Royal Lytham set the standard. "When I looked at the leaderboard," Paul Broadhurst said, "I was a bit concerned to see all these Americans there."

Broadhurst shot 65, six under par, equalling the course record established by Seve Ballesteros in his famous closing round in 1988. Carl Mason, who finished eagle, birdie to survive the final qualifying, also had a memorable round to keep Nick Faldo company on 68. Broadhurst's best finish in the Open was joint 12th at St Andrews in 1990 when he scored 63 in the third round. He is familiar with the course here. Broadhurst won the Lytham Trophy eight years ago and went on to receive the silver medal as the leading amateur in the Open at Lytham. That was when it rained so heavily the championship went into a fifth day. There has hardly been a cloud on the horizon so far and the forecast is for more of the same.

There is a huge public bar called the Open Arms to the left of the clubhouse and it was satisfying to see about eight hours before the sun slipped over the yard arm. "It's so fiery out there it's not easy to keep the ball on the green," Broadhurst said. His round was extraordinary for a number of reasons. In the third round of the Scottish Open at Carnoustie last week Broadhurst took five putts at the 18th, four of them from about four feet. In the final round he shot 80 in a gale. "It destroys your swing," he said. "I've had to work hard the last three days to get it back."

Nobody starts an Open Championship by hitting out the tee, a four-iron, two-iron, two-iron, two-iron and five-iron on the first five holes. Broadhurst did. His chipping and putting

was exemplary and it needed to be, for he lost count of the number of times he went through the back of the green.

However, he did not need his wedge at the sixth where he hit a five-iron approach from 197 yards to within eight feet of the flag and sank the putt for an eagle three that got him to two under. He went out in 32, came home in 33 and had a total of only 23 putts.

"You feel a bit of pressure when you are leading the Open," Broadhurst said. "I've played to the Ryder Cup and that's the most daunting of all. I'm good enough to win but I'm not going around shouting my mouth off that I'm going to win the Open. If I'm in with a shout I will take it. Normally it's very windy here. It's most unusual. The course relies on the wind. It's summer here and you get some sunny days occasionally. I'm sure the Americans prefer it this way."

Nick Faldo, three strokes behind Broadhurst, also predicted

Bernhard Langer was having treatment last night for a shoulder injury which contributed to his disappointing first-round 75 at Lytham yesterday. He visited the course's physiotherapy unit before leaving yesterday. However, officials do not believe Langer's injury will force him to withdraw, although he will face a fitness test this morning.

a good week for the Americans. "No breeze, a short golf course," Faldo explained, as if the Americans were used to playing on nothing else. Faldo, who got up at 5am on his 39th birthday, hit a three-iron on the first tee into a bunker, came out to eight feet and missed the putt to record a bogey four.

He had three birdies over the back nine. "It was important to stay close to the leaders," he said. He thought the last nine holes were slow and added: "They should put just enough water on them to keep them alive." He holed nothing until making a 20-footer to save par on the 13th. "The support from the crowd was unbelievable," Faldo said.

Fuzzy Zoeller, one of his playing partners, was under the impression that some of the cheers were for him. "I get a good reaction here because the people see I'm enjoying myself," Fuzzy said. Robert Allenby, the third member of the group, had a triple bogey seven at the third after shanking a shot out

of a bunker. The ball hit a woman on the head and that was the last thing she needed as her oeck was already in a brace.

No American professional has won the Open at Lytham although Bobby Jones triumphed here in 1926. "The Americans are going to be very strong this week," Faldo maintained. Mark Brooks, Mark O'Meara, Mark McCumber, Brad Faxon, Fred Couples, Loreo Roberts and Tom Lehman were all at four under as was the Japanese player Hidemichi Tanaka.

Faxon, who led the Open going into the last round at Turnberry two years ago, played with Colin Montgomerie but despite this he thoroughly enjoyed himself. In fact, Faxon sounded a klaxon for the Open and its traditions. "This," he said, "is the Olympics of golf, the oldest and highest championship we play."

"Only 11 US Tour players entered the qualifying and only seven turned up. I'm embarrassed by this and I'm not the only one. I don't know why guys that are exempt do not come over."

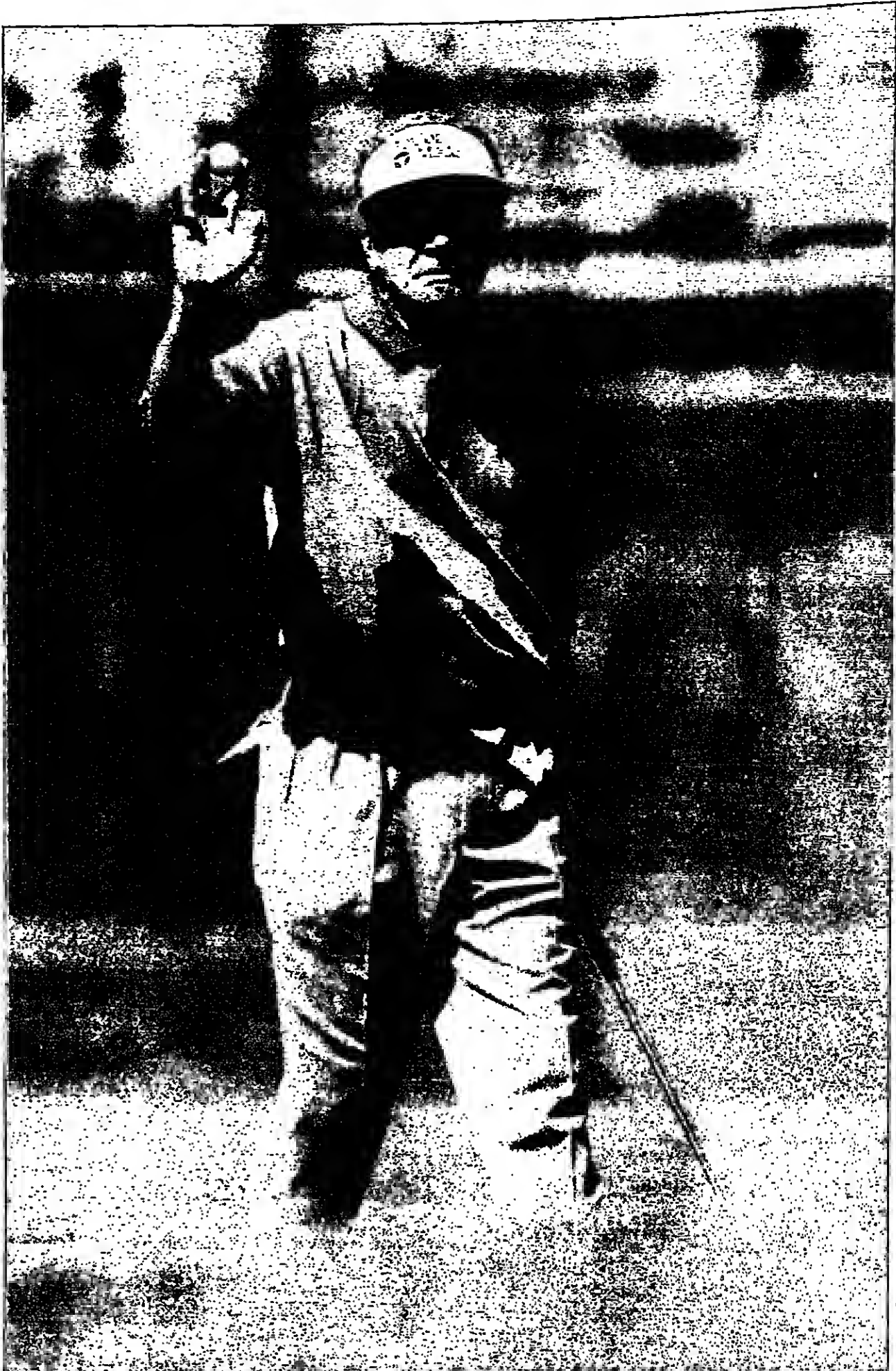
He had in mind Scott Hoch, who chose to play in Mississippi. "I know Mississippi will shoot me but they should not have a tournament against the British Open. If Hoch wins in Mississippi who cares? He has no business staying home." There is a suspicion that Faxon would be a popular winner with the Royal and Ancient.

Tanaka, who has barely ventured out of Japan, described his 67 as the best of his life. "If I had to mark every round out of 100 I'd give myself 20,000," he said, mysteriously. Tanaka is from Hiroshima and is making his first visit to Europe. He gained an exemption by finishing in the top five on the Japanese Tour. "I never imagined I could have my name on the leaderboard," he said. "Even now I can't believe it."

Nor can Paul Azinger. He missed a putt at the ninth and reacted by breaking his putter over his knee. Forced to putt with a sand iron he finished with a 74.

John Daly, the defending champion, got to five under after 11 holes but dropped strokes over the back nine. "I let a good opportunity slip away," Daly, who shot 70, said. "But it could have been worse. I could still be in the bunker at the 17th."

Ian Woosnam knows the feeling. He took a quadruple bogey eight at the 17th visiting virtually every part of the hole except the fairway.



Pretty in pink: Paul Broadhurst acknowledges the crowd at the 18th yesterday

Photograph: Robert Hallam

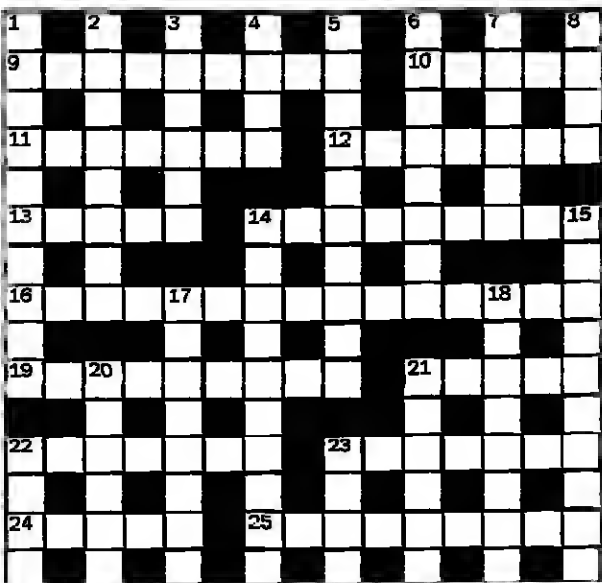
THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



No. 3043, Friday 19 July

By Phil

Thursday's Solution



1. A very small thing is initially easy to describe in detail (9)
2. Head of youth group in Lakeland (5)
3. A church to be borne by victim of sermonising (7)
4. Yank involved in issue recalled to be deceitful (5-4)
5. Sticky stuff's not quite coagulated, foot (5)
6. Writer, inquisitive, not the first to be in poverty (9)
7. Start of unlikely of troop manoeuvres, with part on the wrong scale (3,2,10)
8. A flavouring tripe man's distributed (9)
9. Students enthralled by insect - a real beauty (5)
10. Composer - a Frenchman with skill in University (7)
11. Labour dismissing Tories leader successfully: "It's rigged!" (3-1)
12. Capital account given by artist (5)
13. Ancient king, one willing to take guileless men on (9)
14. Very excited servant involved in various amours (10)
15. Football crowd send for a supporter (8)
16. Not entirely mad - what do you make of that? (6)
17. Distant American state incorporating islands closer to home? (10)
18. I will exist in grand state of poor health (3-5)
19. Give more money to man (Henry) holding note (6)
20. Ran fast? (6)
21. Gong having centre struck to indicate this? (4)
22. Female denied leading position in Arab country (4)

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First round scores from Royal Lytham

(US or I) under 100	R. Mearns (US)	B. Linn (US)	M. Linn (US)	T. Borm (Den)	M. Campbell (NZ)
65	P. Broadhurst (US)	S. Simpson (US)	R. Bosc (US)	C. Surtees (US)	D. Hoskins (US)
67	P. Faldo (US)	S. Jones (US)	W. Austin (US)	S. Linn (US)	H. Marshall (US)
68	M. McCumber (US)	C. Strang (US)	P. Macdonald (US)	J. Roney (US)	S. Simpson (US)
69	M. Brooks (US)	S. Linn (US)	S. Linn (US)	P. Scarth (US)	D. David (US)
70	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	A. Oost (US)	D. Donaghy (US)	S. Campbell (US)
71	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	R. Goss (US)	F. Tennant (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
72	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	A. Ramsay (US)
73	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
74	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
75	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
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97	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
98	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
99	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)
100	J. Daly (US)	J. Daly (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Goss (US)	S. Sweeney (US)

The ups and downs of the opening day

Hole	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Out	In	Total
Per	3	4	4	4	3	5	5	4	5	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	36	36	72
Yards	206	437	457	353	212	490	553	418	164	334	542	198	342	445	463	357	467	414	3330	3562	6892
Broadhurst	3	4	4	4	3	3	5	4	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	32	33	65
Couples	3	4	4	3	2	5	4	4	3	4	3	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	32	35	67
McCumber	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	32	35	67
Tanaka	3	3	4	4	3	4	5	3	2	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	31	36	67
Faxon	3	4	4	4	2	4	5	4	2	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	4	32	35	67
O'Meara	2	5	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	32	35	67
Lehman	3	4	4	3	2	4	5	4	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	4	3	32	35	67
Roberts	2	4	4	3	2	5	4	5	3	3	5	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	32	35	67
Faldo	4	4	4	4	3	4	5	4	3	4	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	3	33	33	66
Daly	3	4	3	4	2	4	4	4	4	4	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	31	39	70

Units: Information Services for Sport

Medical chief criticises spectators

The Open medical chief, Michael Allen, last night criticised spectators at Lytham for their stupidity after his staff reported dealing with more than 250 cases of heat exhaustion and sunburn.

And Open officials asked the BBC's Peter Allis to put out repeated pleas for fans to cover up properly with the heat-wave due to continue over the next three days.

Allen said: "People should realise that, to these 80-degree temperatures, they must cover their heads and arms. It's as warm up here now as it is in Gran Canaria."

"We've been very busy over the last two days, and 250 is just the number of spectators we know about. I'm sure there have been many more, especially today."

treated were for sun exhaustion, heat-stroke and severe sunburn. If those people were intending to come again tomorrow I can tell them they will be struggling as they will be like lobsters tonight."

"That's why we have decided to issue the television warnings. I hope it has an effect as it will be even hotter tomorrow. People just have to be more sensible."

Redgrave to carry British flag again

Olympic Games

GUY HODGSON

reports from Atlanta

Steve Redgrave was about to blow up about the transportation system in Atlanta yesterday when the British Olympic Association poured water on his ire. Instead of raising the roof he will lift the flag at the opening ceremony tonight.

The BOA chose the three-times rowing gold medalist to carry the Union Jack ahead of several other highly qualified candidates, so instead of Lifford Christie getting a chance to lead the team round the Centennial Olympic Stadium for the first time, Redgrave will become the first Briton to fly the flag for the second time. He will be making history even before he gets to the water.

"I'm very, very surprised," Redgrave, who will defend the coxless pairs title with Matthew Pinsent, said. "I knew my name had gone forward but I didn't believe for a second they'd ask me again. To think that the sport of rowing has been given the opportunity to lead the team twice is a fantastic honour."

"The bus carrying the rowing team got lost on the way from Atlanta to Lake Lanier and when I arrived I was playing hell about it. Someone said to me 'you don't know about it do you?'. When I was told, it stopped me complaining I can tell you."

The decision means the 34-year-old Redgrave will be detained by the opening celebrations until after midnight, less than 36 hours before he and Pinsent are due to take to the water in the heats building up to the finals on Saturday week.

"It's not ideal," he agreed, "but in theory we are among the strongest crews here and the heats should not take that much out of us. If the finals were imminent it would be a different matter."

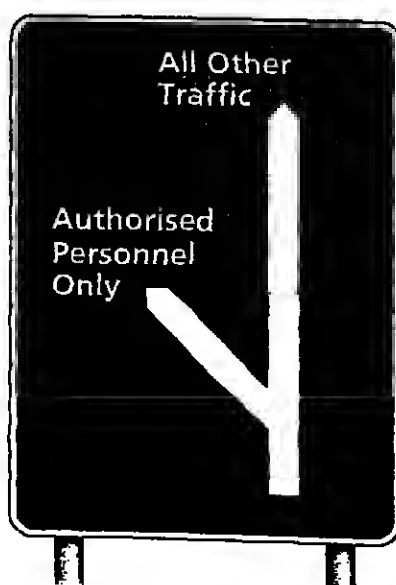
Redgrave, who would become the first Briton to win gold medals in four Olympics if he is successful, said the pressure seemed to be declining rather than escalating as the event draws nearer.

"I've spoken to two journalists on the phone in the last three weeks since the rowing team went to Canada and they came here."

"When I compare that to the previous six months when I seemed to be doing three or four interviews every day it feels very low key."

"I'm relaxed, much more so than at the same stage at Barcelona."

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